



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN  
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

# UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN YEAR IN REVIEW 2018

# VISION

UCT is an inclusive and engaged research-intensive African university that inspires creativity through outstanding achievements in learning, discovery and citizenship; enhancing the lives of its students and staff, advancing a more equitable and sustainable social order and influencing the global higher education landscape.

# MISSION

UCT is committed to engaging with the key issues of our natural and social worlds through outstanding teaching, research and scholarship. We seek to advance the status and distinctiveness of scholarship in Africa through building strategic partnerships across the continent, the global south and the rest of the world.

UCT provides a vibrant and supportive intellectual environment that attracts and connects people from all over the world.

We aim to produce graduates and future leaders who are influential locally and globally. Our qualifications are locally applicable and internationally acclaimed, underpinned by values of engaged citizenship and social justice. Our scholarship and research have a positive impact on our society and our environment.

We will actively advance the pace of transformation within our university and beyond, nurturing an inclusive institutional culture which embraces diversity.

# WELCOME FROM THE CHANCELLOR



The University of Cape Town has always been on a par with the finest universities in the world. It is a highly respected institution and the highest-ranked university in Africa. We are proud of our history and reputation, and we must continue to build on our strengths to stay ahead in our rapidly changing world.

2018 was a year of leadership transition at the university. I would like to thank Dr Max Price for his decade of commitment and service as vice-chancellor, and I wish Vice-Chancellor Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng strength as she forges ahead in her new role.

We made a deliberate decision to select a forward-thinking leader for our institution. Vice-Chancellor Phakeng

understands that we must continually innovate and reimagine ourselves as a stellar institution, equipping our students to meet the demands of the future. As she has said, "What got us here today may not get us where we want to be tomorrow."

Professor Phakeng is ushering UCT into a new chapter, urging all of us to respect and value the diverse fabric of South African society. She knows that to remain competitive, UCT needs to embrace transformation wholeheartedly and within every aspect of our institution. She is creating platforms where African scholars can thrive and multiply, and where they can nurture the excellence within them and share it with the world.

I am encouraged to see that UCT has a growing percentage of women academics and students from diverse backgrounds in the STEM programmes: science, technology, engineering and mathematics. As the first African woman to earn a PhD in mathematics education, and as a researcher with a National Research Foundation rating, Professor Phakeng is a role model for other African women academics. Beyond her inspiring academic achievements, she has demonstrated compassion, generosity, self-sacrifice and innovative thinking to confront our stale, entrenched societal norms – qualities that we all can emulate to help UCT "get to where we want to be tomorrow".

**Graça Machel**

Chancellor, University of Cape Town



# WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR OF COUNCIL

As chair of Council, together with my colleagues, it has been a privilege to help guide and provide oversight in the working of the University of Cape Town. This responsibility has given us insights into the complex challenges of higher education in contemporary society.

It is a truism that any university that seeks to be of value must recognise that it is a microcosm of the society in which it is located. Education cannot operate in a vacuum; it must impact society and, in turn, be impacted by society. To be relevant in our world, research and teaching must address real issues: poverty and inequality, safety and security, education, gender and family relationships, as well as the global issues of climate change, physical and mental health, migration and the rapid adjustments technology is bringing into our lives.

Modern research is about academics working hand in hand with community organisations to understand the people whose lives they want to change. It is far removed from the old cliché of the ivory tower. Today's researchers work outside the tower, on the ground. They are engaged with the challenges of the day.

It requires courage to interrogate the complex questions of our lives, to innovate powerful solutions and demand the highest performance from ourselves. Courage, creativity and stamina are virtues that we learn from one another, especially if we are fortunate to have leaders who display these qualities themselves.

As we bade farewell to Dr Max Price, whose outstanding leadership as vice-chancellor ended in June 2018,

we welcomed Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng as his successor. From her first day as vice-chancellor, she has demonstrated these qualities, as well as the vision to take UCT into a more sustainable future and to emphasise the good that all of us can do within our diverse disciplines and communities, regardless of our differences.

But like the university, the vice-chancellor cannot take on this task alone. The reward of supporting UCT is that we each get the chance to play a part in the positive changes the university is bringing into the world. It is not just a responsibility; it is also an opportunity to align with the excellence UCT embodies.

**Sipho M Pityana**

Chair of UCT Council

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# WELCOME

## VICE-CHANCELLOR'S OVERVIEW

2018 was a year for recommitting to the University of Cape Town's transformation agenda, a year when the power of community and the excellent, selfless work of so many colleagues helped cement our bid to realise an inclusive and welcoming campus for all.

It was an important year for me personally as I took up office as vice-chancellor on 1 July, and I take this opportunity to thank my predecessor, Dr Max Price, who held the reins for the first half of 2018. I acknowledge his dedication during the 10 years he served as vice-chancellor, as well as that of his most recent antecedents: Professor Stuart Saunders, Dr Mamphela Ramphele and Professor Njabulo S Ndebele.

I was touched and humbled when Professor Saunders, Dr Ramphele and Professor Ndebele honoured me and the institution with their presence at my robing ceremony in December, and I thank them for the unique way in which each has contributed – and continues to contribute – to the UCT of today.

With social responsiveness and engaged scholarship top of our agenda, I wish to highlight two important examples of our university community pulling together to ensure that the experience of our students and staff at UCT speaks more directly to their lived realities.

First is the Inclusivity Policy for Sexual Orientation, launched during Rainbow Week in October. This policy will help forge a campus environment that is free from discrimination in all spheres,

including teaching content and language, the university's code of conduct and our campus culture. The other is the approval by Council of the Student Mental Health Policy in August. This recognises our university's responsibility to address mental health needs as part of students' overall health. Both these policies honour the inclusivity and diversity that we encourage in UCT's community life.

Of course, a discussion about community and mental health must also reflect on the tragic loss of Professor Bongani Mayosi, former dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences and a much-loved member of the UCT family, who took his own life on 27 July. It was a tragic loss to his family and close circle, but also to the staff and students at our university and the broader South African and global community.

The loss of Professor Mayosi highlighted the complexities related to mental health issues, which affect many in our society. It brought home in a very sharp and extremely painful way that we need to care for one another and seek help when we feel overwhelmed. It reminds us to give careful consideration to the many lessons we can learn from this sad experience.

Gender is another critical area of transformation, and I was proud to be able to launch three substantial scholarships for women at a Women's Day luncheon event, titled For Womxn by Womxn, on 8 August. Focused specifically on gender issues, these scholarships, worth up to R1.5 million a year for five years, are aimed at three areas of research:



"I BELIEVE THAT THIS EVENING REPRESENTS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF HOW WE CAN BEGIN TO BUILD AN EVEN STRONGER COMMUNITY WHERE EVERYONE'S CONTRIBUTION IS VALUED, AND EXCELLENCE IS ACKNOWLEDGED IN ALL ASPECTS - FROM GARDENING AND CATERING SERVICES TO MAINTENANCE TEAMS, AS WELL AS ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF, TO ACADEMICS AND STUDENTS," VICE-CHANCELLOR PROFESSOR MAMOKGETHI PHAKENG IN HER OPENING ADDRESS AT THE UCT ANNUAL AWARDS 2018.

- Scholarship for womxn by womxn, which focuses on areas of study where women are under-represented, with the long-term goal of growing the number of women in these areas
- Scholarship for womxn by womxn on womxn, for research in an area that focuses on women's issues but can include the intersection of gender with other marginalised identities
- Scholarship on re-imagining gender, to support research on transgender or nonconforming gender issues. I trust that this research will help Africans to acknowledge people whose identities are outside the gender binaries and to recognise that queerness is indeed African.

Gender equality and transformation are not only academic concerns, so I was pleased to learn that UCT Cycling elected its first female chair, formed a women's racing team and launched a cycling scholarship programme in 2018. These strides offer an important indication that students are paying thoughtful attention to building community outside of the classroom.

At the end of the year, women also held nine of the 15 positions in the new 2018/19 Students' Representative Council, while women students received top honours at the 2018 Student Leadership Awards. They included Sarina Mpharalala, who won the Vice-Chancellor's Award, and Husna Moola, who received the Deputy Vice-Chancellor's Award.

Meanwhile, I am heartened to see that so many UCT research projects seek to

answer practical questions about how we can improve lives. For example, civil engineering student Suzanne Lambert and her supervisor, Dr Dyllon Randall, a senior lecturer in water quality engineering, made a significant contribution to research with the world's first bio-brick grown from human urine, signalling a paradigm shift in waste recovery and sustainability. News of their achievement spread quickly around the world, winning UCT significant international acclaim for the work we do.

To honour former president Nelson Mandela's legacy of national and international leadership, I was delighted to launch the Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance in July, in honour of the 100th birthday of our first democratically elected president. By promoting Mandela's values of ethical and selfless leadership, the school epitomises my vision of strengthening our excellence as a university, driving transformation, ensuring a sustainable future for UCT, and further establishing our institution as a beacon of leadership in Africa and further afield.

Another way UCT is providing leadership is with the launch in June of the Neuroscience Centre at Groote Schuur Hospital. The interdisciplinary space will house both the new UCT Neuroscience Institute and the Groote Schuur Hospital Clinical Neuroscience Centre, giving researchers and clinicians an opportunity to work together to treat brain and nervous system disorders that burden South Africa.

Work also started on the construction of a R130-million state-of-the-art academic conference centre on the Graduate School of Business (GSB) campus at the V&A Waterfront. With satellite offices on the Cape Flats and in Johannesburg, the GSB is among the region's leading business schools. Through the GSB, we are committed to doing actionable work that is relevant to the African continent, and producing engaged students who are ready to contribute to sustainable transformation. Such work develops UCT as an institution that is in touch with the needs of surrounding communities.

One of my first actions as vice-chancellor was to spend time visiting sites and community projects on the Cape Flats where UCT is involved. I was excited to spend the time discussing ideas and future dreams with our students and the health services professionals who help train them, and I renewed my commitment to build and strengthen relationships with communities that may have felt alienated from the "university on the hill".

Many of these projects have their roots in the work of SHAWCO, UCT's student-run community service organisation, which proudly celebrated 75 years of community work in 2018.

UCT remains Africa's top institution, after climbing 15 places in the 2019 Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings. We moved up from 171st in 2017 to 156th in 2018. UCT scores also improved in four of the five main THE categories:

- Teaching: 31.7, up from 30.5
- Research: 41.5, up from 36.2
- Citation: 87.2, up from 87.0
- International outlook: 82.4, up from 81.1

I believe that, as an academic leader, UCT should also be heading the charge to understand and address the changes that are rapidly unfolding in the world. To this end, I set up the "Futures Think Tank" to consider how our future as a university, and as a society, may be affected by the shifts that are arising from phenomena such as climate change, the fourth industrial revolution, technological advances, artificial intelligence and global migration, to name a few. I asked Professor Alison Lewis, dean of the Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment, to lead the Think Tank and my hope is that by the end of this year we will be able to announce initiatives emerging from its work.

One thing that does not change is UCT's reliance on so many individuals and organisations for all kinds of support. Our campus community stands strong on the shoulders of our many supporters, and I extend my sincere thanks to each of you for helping to make 2018 a year of continuing growth and success for the university.

**Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng**  
Vice-Chancellor



# EXCELLENCE, TRANSFORMATION AND SUSTAINABILITY:

## THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S VISION FOR UCT

UCT continues to grow as an internationally connected and relevant institution, advancing the distinctiveness of our own African scholarship by attracting students and academics from all over the world to experience what the top university on the continent has to offer.

In this season of change, it is clear that our students, staff members, alumni and donors are ready for a more inclusive institution to emerge, an institution that speaks more directly to their lived realities. We want to see an institution that is more representative of the country we live in, and for students and staff to see their cultures, values, heritage and knowledge systems reflected here in everything they do. We are a diverse community making a contribution to this institution, the people who belong to it and its future. And as we all contribute, we all benefit – in our personal growth, in our careers and as a university community.

Our constant dedication to the academic project is the cornerstone of our work at UCT. How can we continue to maintain our high standards and make a lasting, sustainable impact in higher education and in wider society? This is the question that drives our vision and informs all we do.

The vision is supported by three pillars that are the very foundations of the academic project: excellence, transformation and sustainability.

### EXCELLENCE

Research has long been the cornerstone of excellence at UCT, and we want our researchers to keep contributing to local and global knowledge, but we also recognise that excellence does not rest in the university's research and academic successes alone. It is also present in our professional, administrative support and service (PASS) staff, and it exists across the full diversity of our multilingual and multicultural campus and in society. We need to draw on the entire pool of resources available to us – across all genders, cultures, histories and perspectives. We strive for sustainable excellence in the long run. This requires that it reaches across all UCT activities: our research; our teaching and learning; the impact we have on communities; the work of our professional, administrative support and service departments; across the UCT plant and in all our operations. Opening ourselves to operating in a deeper pool of inclusivity will contribute to authentic and sustainable excellence.

### TRANSFORMATION

At its core, the transformation we strive for is characterised by excellence. Without this excellence, transformation has no integrity. Equally, the sustainable excellence we strive for is enabled and enriched by transformation. Excellence without transformation at its heart will always be called into question. Transformation characterised by integrity recognises that everyone has the potential to transform and to be excellent. It recognises that as we ensure access from across society, we must also ensure opportunities for students and staff to participate fully and have a tangible impact on our world, to contribute to



shaping new perspectives and creating our joint futures. Such transformation is enriching, meaningful, sustainable, filled with promise and will affect and change us all.

### SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability becomes possible only when transformation and excellence work in tandem. True sustainability reaches further than simply ensuring financial sustainability. It includes environmental sustainability and strives to build deeper relationships with the UCT stakeholder community to ensure involvement in and commitment to the future of the university. It asks us to engage with local communities and make a significant difference in the lives of the people who make up our society. It calls on us to influence the educational landscape, to rise to the challenges we face in our country and on our continent, and to influence global matters of education and social justice. We work with the intention of making an impact on individuals that will last a lifetime. We strive to ensure that the impact we make in society will last for generations.

### LEADERSHIP

In order to most effectively serve the academic project, it is important that excellence, transformation and sustainability are driven and advanced via strong leadership structures and key leadership roles reaching across the institution. While the members of the Leadership Lekgotla carry ultimate leadership accountability, we recognise that many academics; professional, administrative support and service staff; and students in various positions play critical roles. Our vision is to appoint excellent staff at UCT, staff who create an enabling environment for other colleagues and our students to thrive in.

So, how will we do this? UCT's future in this ever-changing world will be informed by these three pillars, and through the correct leaders and leadership structures supporting them. We have proposed specific programmes – to be funded by the Vice-Chancellor's Strategic Fund – to help entrench UCT's leadership in the future. These programmes fall into three categories, namely Future Leaders, Futures Scholarship and Inclusive Futures. They are geared towards 2030 – the target year for the outcomes of South Africa's National Development Programme.

The "Leading Scholars" programme will focus on student leadership and entrepreneurship. These future leaders are social justice advocates, alive to the challenges in our society; they are active citizens and community leaders who work towards the improvement of our country; they are collaborative young leaders who will remain critical thinkers as they shape the world around them.

UCT remains a significant player in addressing the critical challenges of our society. The "Futures Scholarship" initiative will consider the implications of global challenges – such as climate change, technological advancements, the fourth industrial revolution, artificial intelligence and global migration – for universities and for society as a whole. For this purpose, we have established a "Futures Think Tank" to tackle the key questions about how UCT (and the way we do our work) should change to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world.

"Inclusive Futures" focuses on expanding knowledge and understanding of the environment, social responsiveness, responsible citizenship, decolonisation and gender equality, among other problems facing our society. To signal UCT's renewed commitment to cultivating inclusivity on and off campus, we must all focus on the expansion of community and external partnerships. This is where we can really begin to address critical development and social justice issues.

"WE ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE UCT A COMMUNITY IN WHICH EVERYONE FEELS AT HOME AND CAN ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL."





# UCT AT A GLANCE

“We are working together to make UCT a community in which everyone feels at home and can achieve their potential.”

**Vice-Chancellor Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng**



## 109 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED ON CAMPUS

**23 629**  
South African students

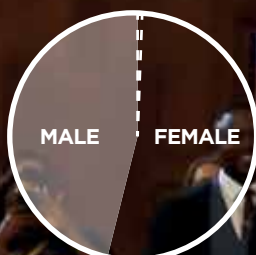
**2 319**  
students from the rest of the SADC member states

**809**  
students from across the African continent

**1 391**  
students from across the world

**545**  
undeclared

**90** home languages



15 287 FEMALE STUDENTS  
13 386 MALE STUDENTS  
20 UNSPECIFIED

**6 731**  
students living in residence

**21 962**  
students living off campus

## 5 126 FIRST-YEARS



**1 252** LAW STUDENTS

**2 845** SCIENCE STUDENTS

**4 933** HEALTH SCIENCES STUDENTS

**4 938** ENGINEERING & THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT STUDENTS

**7 108** HUMANITIES STUDENTS

**7 617** COMMERCE STUDENTS

ENROLMENT 2018  
**28 693 STUDENTS (INCLUDING 945 OCCASIONAL STUDENTS)**

16 747 undergraduates  
11 001 postgraduates  
2 122 PhDs  
5 685 master's  
1 528 honours  
1 666 PG dips

AROUND 7 200  
STUDENTS GRADUATE  
EACH YEAR.

\*These figures were unaudited at the time of going to print and may be subject to change.





### UCT IS A MEMBER OF THE FOLLOWING GLOBAL UNIVERSITY NETWORKS:

- ▶ The African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA)
- ▶ The International Alliance of Research Universities (IARU)
- ▶ The Worldwide Universities Network (WUN)
- ▶ The Southern African-Nordic Centre (SANORD)
- ▶ The Australia-Africa Universities Network (AAUN)

# 1211

## ACADEMIC STAFF

8 JUNIOR LECTURERS  
317 LECTURERS  
372 SENIOR LECTURERS  
270 ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS  
244 PROFESSORS

**917** South African  
**93** African  
**201** Global

**44%** of the academics  
at UCT are female.

628 male staff members  
583 female staff members

**3 721** professional,  
administrative  
support and service (PASS) staff

# #1 IN AFRICA

(Times Higher Education World University Rankings, Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings, Centre for World University Rankings, US News Best Global University Rankings.)



## 19%

42 SARCHI (South African Research Chairs Initiative) chairs are held by UCT researchers.

## 15%

541 of the country's NRF-rated researchers are at UCT.

## 33%

42 of South Africa's NRF A-rated researchers call UCT home.



ALMOST  
40 SPORTING  
CODES

OVER 100 STUDENT  
CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

## 25 KM<sup>2</sup>

The total area of UCT's campuses, including its satellite facilities in Observatory, Gardens, Philippi and the Atlantic Seaboard.

**15** MOOCs (massive open online courses) are currently run by UCT, attracting more than 230 000 people from over 100 countries.

**1.2 MILLION**  
PHYSICAL VOLUMES  
IN UCT LIBRARIES

977 laptops were provided to financially eligible first-year students to assist with their studies.



# KEY APPOINTMENTS

UCT's Leadership Lekgotla is working to implement the institution's strategic goals, build its financial health and maintain its academic excellence, and will continue to do so as the various vacancies in the executive leadership are filled.

The senior management team comprises 23 positions, including the vice-chancellor, three deputy vice-chancellors, the chief operating officer, the registrar, seven deans, nine executive directors and the director of the Graduate School of Business (GSB). Of the 23 Leadership Lekgotla positions, 16 were filled by permanent appointees at the end of 2018.

Five of these positions were filled after Vice-Chancellor Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng took office on 1 July 2018, namely:

## Chief Operating Officer

Dr Reno Morar, formerly deputy dean for Health Services in the Faculty of Health Sciences, was appointed as UCT's new chief operating officer (COO). This new post was created to improve the efficiency

of the university's operations by dealing with important operational issues in departments that require a dedicated focus, such as Information and Communication Technology Services, UCT Libraries, and Properties and Services.

## Dean: Commerce

Associate Professor Linda Ronnie was appointed as the new dean of the Faculty of Commerce, taking up her new role on 22 October 2018. She brings a wealth of institutional knowledge and experience, having joined UCT in 2002 as a senior lecturer in human resource management. She has also held numerous leadership positions at UCT's Graduate School of Business (GSB).

## Executive Director: Information and Communication Technology Services (ICTS)

Richard van Huyssteen was appointed as the executive director of ICTS with effect from 1 November 2018. He joined UCT as manager of the Faculty of Science in 1994 and has held several other roles at the university. He most recently served as director of the Systems Division within ICTS.

## Executive Director: UCT Libraries

Ujala Satgoor was appointed as the new executive director of UCT Libraries. She took up the position from 1 January 2019. She has years of experience in the higher education environment and was previously the director of library services at Rhodes University, a position she held from 2012.

## Executive Director: Properties and Services

Mughtar Parker took over as the new executive director of Properties and Services on 1 July 2018. Parker, who joined UCT from Wits University, has exceptional experience in property services and development and has held senior management roles at a number of top companies since June 1995.



**VICE-CHANCELLOR** PROF MAMOKGETHI PHAKENG



**Registrar**  
Royston Pillay



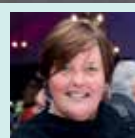
**Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Transformation**  
Prof Loretta Feris



**Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Internationalisation**  
Prof Michael Kyobe



**Chief Operating Officer**  
Dr Reno Morar



**Executive Director: Communication and Marketing**  
Gerda Kruger



**Executive Director: Development and Alumni**  
Dr Russell Ally



**Executive Director: Student Affairs**  
Dr Moonira Khan



**Executive Director: Research Office**  
Dr Marilet Sienart



**Executive Director: Finance**  
Ashley Francis



**Executive Director: Human Resources**  
Miriam Hoosain



**Executive Director: ICTS**  
Richard van Huyssteen



**Executive Director: Properties and Services**  
Mughtar Parker



Recruitment processes for the following seven positions were in progress at the end of 2018:

**Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Internationalisation**

Professor Michael Kyobe was asked to act in this role from 1 July 2018 when the previous incumbent, Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng, took up her role as vice-chancellor. Professor Kevin Naidoo took over the position on 1 January 2019 and will act in this role until a substantive appointment is made.

**Dean: Centre for Higher Education Development**

Associate Professor Alan Cliff was appointed as the acting dean from 10 September 2018 to 30 November 2018. He was subsequently appointed as interim dean from 1 December 2018 until 31 December 2019.

**Dean: Faculty of Health Sciences**

Professor Carolyn Williamson took up her position as the interim dean of the faculty effective from 1 October 2018 and will hold the position until 30 September 2019.

**Dean: Faculty of Humanities**

Professor David Wardle served as the acting dean of the faculty from 1 January 2018, continuing in the role until 31 December 2018.

**Dean: Faculty of Law**

Professor Hugh Corder served as acting dean of the faculty from 28 May 2018. Professor Danwood Chirwa took over as the new dean in the faculty on 1 January 2019, having previously served as the deputy dean for postgraduate studies in the faculty.

**Dean: Faculty of Science**

Professor Susan Bourne was appointed as the interim dean from 1 January 2018 and served in the role until 1 March 2019 when Professor Maano Ramutsindela took office as the new dean.

**Director: Graduate School of Business**

Associate Professor Kosheek Sewchurran was appointed as the acting director from 7 June 2018 and will serve in the post until a substantive appointment is made.

The executive will oversee the finalisation of all recruitment processes in progress to ensure, with the assistance of colleagues across the institution, the smooth governance of UCT.



**Deputy Vice-Chancellor:  
Teaching  
and Learning**  
Assoc Prof  
Lisa Lange



**Executive  
Director:  
UCT Libraries**  
Ujala Satgoor



**Interim Dean:  
CHED**  
Assoc Prof  
Alan Cliff



**Dean: Faculty  
of Commerce**  
Assoc Prof  
Linda Ronnie



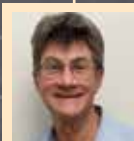
**Dean: EBE**  
Prof Alison  
Lewis



**Interim Dean  
Faculty of  
Health Sciences**  
Prof Carolyn  
Williamson



**Acting Dean:  
Faculty of  
Humanities**  
Prof David  
Wardle



**Acting Dean:  
Faculty of Law**  
Prof Hugh  
Corder



**Interim Dean:  
Faculty of  
Science**  
Prof Susan  
Bourne



**Acting Director:  
GSB**  
Assoc Prof  
Kosheek  
Sewchurran



# UCT COUNCIL 2018

The UCT Council governs the university and approves the strategic direction and policies of the institution. It is also responsible for ensuring a financially secure environment through long-term financial planning and the approval of annual budgets.

In 2018 the UCT Council was involved with the following decisions:

## NEW VICE-CHANCELLOR

After 10 years in office, Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price concluded his term of office on 30 June 2018, having steered UCT to a number of remarkable milestones. Council approved the appointment of Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng as vice-chancellor with effect from 1 July 2018 and endorsed her vision for her term of office.

## FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Council approved an increase in tuition fees of 5.3% (excluding the programmes and courses offered by the Graduate School of Business) and an increase in residence fees of 7.3%. The international term fee increase was approved at 8%. In 2018 UCT achieved a 3.7% surplus on its recurrent operating income – against an annual Council target of 3%, which allows UCT to fund longer-term projects and support institutional priorities. The next largest surplus in recent years was achieved in 2014 when a 2.8% surplus was recorded.

## EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

One of Council's most important functions is to make senior leadership appointments and to ensure smooth leadership transition. Among others, Council approved the appointments of Dr Reno Morar in the newly created position of chief operating officer and Associate Professor Linda Ronnie as the new dean of the Faculty of Commerce. (See page 6 for further information on executive appointments.)

## HUMAN RESOURCES

Council approved retrospectively the change in the policy on permanent appointments of professional, administrative support and service (PASS) staff in payclasses 1 to 8. In terms of the revised policy, a coalition of unions will be invited to appoint one union representative and an alternate (from a pool of union-nominated trained representatives) to serve on selection committees for the affected posts.

## MAYOSI INQUIRY

Following inputs from stakeholder representatives, Council approved the selection of members for an independent panel of inquiry to review the issues raised surrounding the passing of Professor Bongani Mayosi on 27 July 2018. The members of the panel are Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo (Chair), Dr Somadoda Fikeni, Professor Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela and Ms Nomfundo Walaza. The panel will review the systems for the management and support of senior leaders, with a particular focus on black leaders at the university, and will seek to identify those factors that will inform institutional interventions to assist the university in the future.

## RENAMING OF BUILDINGS

As part of the wider transformation initiative, Council approved the renaming of Memorial Hall to Sarah Baartman Hall following extensive consultation and deliberations, including with representatives of the Khoi community. Council also resolved to rename the JP Duminy Residence (the new name to be decided by the Naming of Buildings Committee) as well as approving updates

to existing signage to reflect the correct Khoisan spelling of the Hoerikwaggo building: Huri #oaxa.

## INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Council confirmed its support for important infrastructure projects that will be part-funded by grants from the Department of Higher Education and Training. The grants, and the building development that they will support, are crucial to UCT's infrastructure expansion. These developments include the refurbishment and extension of the Chris Hani Building, the Avenue Road Student Residence, network replacement and the upgrade to digital preservation facilities, and a project for water sustainability.

## ENROLMENT AND APPLICATIONS

Council approved enrolment targets for 2018, which projected first-year enrolments of 3 905 students for 2019. Recognising the advantage of an earlier closing date for study applications, Council approved the shift in deadline from 30 September to 31 July. An earlier closing date will contribute to more efficient management of the admissions process.

## INSTITUTIONAL REPORTS

Reports are submitted to Council on a regular basis from the UCT executive, the academic faculties and the PASS departments to monitor progress in relation to the 2016–2020 Strategic Planning Framework, which Council approved in 2017. Council adopted the Transformation, Teaching and Learning, Research and Social Responsiveness reports in 2018.





# UCT'S DONOR AND ALUMNI COMMUNITY

The Development and Alumni Department (DAD) is responsible for raising, processing and stewarding donations from a wide community of individuals, corporates and foundations. It also serves as the link between our communities of students and alumni through regular events and updates on campus life.

2018 saw an increase in the total donations receipted, valued at just over R404 million, up from R369 million in 2017. This is indicative of the high regard in which UCT's scholarship, research, and teaching and learning are held.

Of the total donations, five individuals donated over R1 million, with Mark Shuttleworth donating over R5 million. Seven donations from corporates and foundations exceeded R10 million, including the Kaplan Kushlick Educational Foundation, the Thuthuka Education Upliftment Fund, the Irwinton Foundation Inc, the Bertha Foundation, the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation of New York. A single donation of more than R30 million was gratefully received from the Andrew W Mellon Foundation.

It is encouraging to note that there was an almost even split between national (49%) and international donations (51%), demonstrating the confidence that local donors have in our university and the support that the university still enjoys on a global scale.

Against the backdrop of national concerns about the affordability of university studies, it is worth noting that the Department of Student Affairs

received the highest percentage of the total donations: 22.5% or R91 million. Most of this was allocated to student financial aid, including historic debt relief, and student wellness.

While funding trends usually favour the Faculty of Health Sciences, along with the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects, the Faculty of Humanities received the highest faculty donations in 2018: R70 million or 17.3%.

Since 2015 the number of donors to the Distinguishing UCT campaign has grown to 394, and the current value of the university's unrestricted endowment has grown from R500 million to R673 million. A range of key areas, from bursaries, scholarships, student health and financial aid, to infrastructure and strategic projects are supported by these cash reserves.

In 2018, for example, UCT invested R150 million in bursaries and scholarships for financially eligible students thanks to support from the returns on the unrestricted endowment. An additional R123 million was raised through the campaign for capital and infrastructure projects, mostly notably a building project for a new Neuroscience Centre, which will be a global leader in the field.

Alumni engagements in 2018 saw new relationships forged in Mauritius and Zimbabwe, bringing UCT to a total of 12 alumni chapters around the world. Apart from events across South Africa, DAD hosted alumni at special engagements in Namibia, Ghana and Australia.

One of the highlights of the national events was co-hosted with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) to introduce Vice-Chancellor Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng to almost 200 alumni as part of Women's Month celebrations on 29 August.

Alumni Lifestyle Events have been an innovative platform to engage with alumni through their participation in sporting, music and cultural events. The Cape Town Cycle Tour presented one such opportunity, where DAD hosted a post-event hospitality suite for UCT alumni cyclists.

With 2018 being UCT's centenary as a degree-issuing institution, DAD hosted a seminar series that explored the tenures of each of UCT's nine former vice-chancellors. Keynote speakers offered insights into these nine periods of the university's history, with critical commentary on building the next century on a transformative foundation of knowledge.

# GOOD GOVERNANCE IS KEY TO MAINTAINING FINANCIAL STABILITY

Ashley Francis, executive director of UCT's Finance Department, reflects on the university's finances in 2018.



## GOOD GOVERNANCE IS KEY TO MAINTAINING FINANCIAL STABILITY

After three years of student protests and disruptions to the academic programme, the Finance Department found its operational rhythm in 2018 and the leadership was able to work at fully executing and implementing the department's strategic goals. The institution's finances emerged strong and stable from what was a difficult period in the higher education sector nationally, thanks to robust financial policy planning and implementation, discipline and good governance.

## STRATEGIC GOALS

The Finance Department continues to respond effectively to its four strategic goals, which were adopted in 2017. Among these are agile budgeting and reporting, which underwent a rigorous screening exercise early in 2018. As a result, approval was received by the end of that year to implement a new budgeting tool to optimise and streamline operations. This tool will be rolled out during the second half of 2019, at the start of the 2020 budgeting process.

In terms of operational excellence, the department is reviewing the feasibility of a shared service model within the Finance Department. This will enable us to reduce costs, improve controls and boost service levels all round. Work will begin in 2019 relating to the As-Is and To-Be scenarios.

We also commenced a full review and possible redesign of our research finance administration. This is intended to improve the control environment, offer quality service, provide quality reporting and facilitate increased funding opportunities.

Transforming the department to one that is fair and equitable is a high priority. While it remains an ongoing process, the Finance Department has performed exceptionally well in this regard, with transformation being evident on all levels.

## MAINTAINING A FIRM FINANCIAL FOOTING

Despite the institution's list of annual expenses – including its R220 million utility

bill (UCT is one of Cape Town's largest property owners), a teaching and learning staffing bill of R2.2 billion (66% of our total cost base) and a R180 million travelling bill for academic and non-academic staff – we have maintained a stable financial outlook.

UCT prides itself in curtailing unnecessary student fee write-offs. Finance records indicate that we were about 1% slower with fee collection in 2018 when compared to 2017, but we remain consistent when collecting our debt.

The 2016 austerity process was a painful and unsettling exercise, but controlling costs amid a significant decline in revenue and above-inflationary cost increases was absolutely necessary and in the best long-term interests of the institution. Results achieved include the targeted institutional cost reduction in excess of R100 million, as well as a positive shift in spend culture across the university.

## INCREASING REVENUE STREAMS

UCT's cost base remains high with very limited opportunity for revenue growth. We are reliant on government funding and student fees to maintain operations. These two income streams make up 42% and 43% of our total income respectively.

UCT's student enrolment currently sits at approximately 29 000 per annum, with little chance of a significant increase in the near future. When it comes to increasing student fees, government remains influential and the university is thus strongly guided to not increase fees beyond a certain percentage for each new academic year.

## COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Finance Department established a UCT-owned food company under the brand Food & Connect, with a total of nine Food & Connect stores currently scattered around campus. After just six months, the long queues demonstrate that it's been well received by the UCT community.

As part of the expansion project for this brand, the plan is to introduce two food trucks that are able to move around campus to provide staff and students with grab-and-go meal and coffee options.

## STUDENT FUNDING

UCT remains the only tertiary institution in South Africa that offers financial aid far above the government threshold of R350 000 – UCT's financial aid programme (GAP funding) extends to households that earn up to R600 000 per annum. According to preliminary (unaudited) analysis, R1.2 billion was made available for financial assistance at both undergraduate and postgraduate level for 2018.

Coupled with the country's various stringent economic factors and the significant decrease, in real terms, in government funding over the past few years, the Department of Higher Education responded with an unplanned but welcome injection of funding in 2018. UCT, however, remains committed to helping students who cannot afford fees, provided they meet the financial criteria and register good academic progress during the course of their studies. In 2018 we funded 3 838 students through the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) and provided close to 1 000 financially eligible first-year students with free laptops funded solely by UCT.

### In 2018:

- 1 004 students were provided with UCT GAP funding.
- 4 010 students at undergraduate and postgraduate level were assisted by corporates at a cost of R288 million.
- In excess of R310 million (unaudited) was distributed for postgraduate funding, assisting 4 547 students.
- The university received donations to the value of R404 million in the period under review, which was up significantly from R369 million in 2017. Of these donations, 4% were endowments and the balance were straightforward donations to the university.
- Discipline and good governance continue to be the basis for UCT's financial operations. Through this philosophy we have successfully managed to bring stability to our finances. We continue to work hard to deliver on our strategic goals in order to promote ongoing operational efficiency.





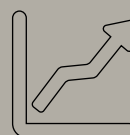
# UCT FINANCES 2018\*

## GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET

	Rm	
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>3 387</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
State subsidy	1 419	41.9%
Tuition fees	1 428	42.2%
Other income	539	15.9%
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>3 262</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Staff and related costs	2 160	66.2%
Financial aid and scholarships	165	5.0%
Administration and operating expenses	356	10.9%
Jammie Shuttle	22	0.7%
Library acquisitions, books and journals	86	2.7%
Maintenance	55	1.7%
Rates and utilities	146	4.5%
Computers, furniture and equipment	87	2.7%
University research and equipment committees	57	1.7%
Other costs	127	3.9%

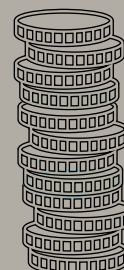
## STAFF DONATIONS

A total of 190 staff donated to various projects in 2018, including departmental/faculty funds, such as the Mayosi Impilo Bursary Fund and the EBE Student in Distress Fund. Approximately 40 of these staff members donated specifically to supporting student financial aid. Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng established the Vice-Chancellor's Student Scholarship Fund in 2018, which sees her donating 10% of her salary each year to postgraduates in need.



## STUDENT FINANCIAL AID R1.2 BILLION

Approximately R1.2 billion was made available for financial assistance at both undergraduate and postgraduate level in 2018. At undergraduate level 7 650 students were assisted, while at postgraduate level 4 547 students were assisted. This means that UCT, in conjunction with its funding partners, was responsible for facilitating funding for over 12 000 students in 2018.



## UNDERGRADUATE FUNDING R850m

Over R850 million was committed to undergraduate financial aid and assisting with historical debt, with the biggest increases coming from UCT's own funds, funds raised from donors and corporate sponsorships. In total, 7 650 or 44% of UCT's undergraduate students received financial support.

Financial aid (NSFAS and UCT top-up funding):  
**3 839 students**

GAP (UCT funded):  
**1 004 students**

External bursaries (corporates, NGOs, foundations, philanthropy):  
**2 807 students**

**UCT COUNCIL:**  
R163.4 million

**UCT DESIGNATED:**  
R86.5 million

**CORPORATES, SPONSORS, TRUSTS AND OTHERS:**  
R288.9 million

**NATIONAL STUDENT FINANCIAL AID SCHEME (NSFAS):**  
R311.3 million

## POSTGRADUATE FUNDING R310 MILLION

Close to R310 million was allocated to postgraduate funding in 2018 – honours, master's and doctoral students (excluding postdocs). This came from UCT's own funds, academic department allocations, the National Research Foundation (NRF), postgraduate bursaries linked to research programmes and donated funds, as well as funds administered by the fees office. In total, 4 547 or 41% of postgraduates were financially supported.

**UCT (GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET):**  
R30.2 million

**DEPARTMENTAL:**  
R114.4 million

**DONATIONS:**  
R39.4 million

**INVESTMENTS:**  
R11.1 million

**VIA FEES OFFICE:**  
R31.1 million

**NRF:**  
R79.9 million

**STATE:**  
R3.5 million

**326** postdoctoral fellows were awarded a total of R77.6 million

UCT (general operating budget):  
**R4.3 million**

Departmental:  
**R47.1 million**

Donations:  
**R4.6 million**

NRF:  
**R21.6 million**

\*These figures were unaudited at the time of going to print and may be subject to change.

## MANAGING CRIME AT UCT

The safety of the staff, students and visitors on UCT's campuses is a critical priority and remains a significant, complex and costly challenge.

UCT is an open campus, and a number of university properties, particularly student residences, are in residential areas that have been experiencing elevated crime levels.

In 2018 the main crimes affecting UCT students, staff and visitors were robbery and theft. The number of reported robberies has increased by more than 200% since 2010. Theft remained a problem, especially theft of cellphones and laptops, theft from motor vehicles and theft of motor vehicles and bicycles.

Nonetheless, there were some positive developments in that suspects who were allegedly responsible for bag and bicycle thefts were apprehended by Campus Protection Services (CPS), and robberies and muggings declined in some of the more typical crime hot spots as a result of improved patrolling and visibility from security personnel.

The university's endeavours in combating crime were supported through well-established relationships with the Community Improvement Districts of Little Mowbray, Groote Schuur and Observatory, as well as with the Rondebosch and Mowbray police stations.

The critical challenges faced by CPS include high levels of inequality and poverty in local communities, the geographical situation and openness of the campuses, antiquated CCTV equipment and infrastructure, and the lack of proactive communication between the UCT community and CPS.

Although crime in general has increased, UCT remains a relatively safe campus. There is a need, however, for continuing innovation in crime prevention and visible policing.

# REIMAGINING UCT LIBRARIES

In 2018 UCT Libraries continued to reinvent and reimagine its services in support of a research-intensive university.

This included developing a robust and flexible staffing structure to deliver new and innovative services, reconfiguring library spaces and increasing 24/7 spaces to support learning needs, and creating more collaborative spaces to support changing pedagogy.

The introduction of Primo, a user-facing discovery service available to UCT staff and students, allows users to locate physical, electronic and digital resources in all locations, facilitating better management of research. Described as an all-in-one search tool, Primo supports the entire research spectrum ranging from short assignments to in-depth PhD research.

UCT Libraries has taken the lead with its 'library as a publisher' service, distinguishing it from any other academic library on the continent and in the world. The development of interactive open textbooks addresses the spiralling cost of textbooks while facilitating different

learning styles. 2018 saw the publication of *Atlas of Paediatric HIV Infection* and *Building Strong LIS Education: A Call to Global and Local Action - An IFLA BSLISE Working Group White Paper*.

Another innovative service introduced by UCT Libraries is Research Landscape Analysis, which assists prospective master's and PhD students with identifying and confirming the viability of their research topics and identifying funding sources. The service will directly contribute to the university's goal of growing its senior postgraduate cohort.

The university's open access repository, OpenUCT, has been redesigned to capture the institution's scholarly output to ensure greater visibility and discoverability. The new design of the institutional repository will position UCT to ensure that its scholarly dissemination is available for sharing and users can build on its knowledge published.





Momentum continues to build towards doing what is required to transform our university so that it is one day inclusive of all in our community. The UCT Strategic Planning Framework 2016–2020 foregrounds transformation, and our vice-chancellor includes it as part of her own vision. It is within this enabling environment that we have been able to deliver on many of our 2018 transformation objectives.

**PROFESSOR LORETTA FERIS**  
**Deputy Vice-Chancellor:**  
**Transformation**



# TRANSFORMATION



# TRANSFORMATION 2018

Deputy Vice-Chancellor  
Professor Loretta Feris offers  
an overview of transformation  
at the institution in 2018



Our vision for an inclusive UCT in terms of gender and sexuality is becoming clearer. We finalised and adopted a policy on sexuality while consultations on a gender policy near the finish line. Under the guidance of the Office for Inclusivity and Change (OIC), Agents of Change Educators and Rainbow UCT conducted numerous workshops in residences, faculties and departments, focusing on policy awareness training, inclusive practice and better understanding of sexual and gender diversity.

We have made strides in the inclusion and promotion of disabled staff, including an OIC-led investigation into the number of staff living and working with disabilities. This has enabled us to connect staff with the Disability Service (DS), which is traditionally utilised by students. A grant of more than R11 million has allowed the DS to expand its services and the assistive technology available for disabled students.

A continuing concern is how our staff demographic compares to that of the province and country. As such, our work on Employment Equity (EE) forged ahead in 2018 - our policy has been approved by Council and we are nearing implementation. Among our interventions for 2018 were workshops aimed at better capacitating our EE and union representatives, as well as capacity building in our transformation committees to fulfil their roles in departments and faculties. Importantly,

we finalised a framework that will ensure consistency in mandate, composition, constitution and terms of reference.

We have collaborated with Human Resources to redefine the key performance areas of deans, executive directors and heads of departments so that they are measured on transformation.

The work of the Institutional Reconciliation and Transformation Commission (IRTC) began in 2018 and the findings of their work will be released in a report in 2019.

In response to increased levels of sexual violence on campus, we have rolled out extensive training for first responders, Survivor Support, assessors and proctors. Over 60 subwardens received survivor support training, 19 students were trained in basic counselling, and assessors and proctors have been trained to oversee sexual harassment and assault cases. First responders are now equipped with skills to respond effectively, efficiently and with care to victims of sexual assault. Our Specialised Tribunal for Sexual Violence is operational to deal with staff-staff or staff-student cases. The OIC's office provides mediation counselling rooms and doubles as an emergency overnight bedsit for survivors of sexual violence.

Our work to empower student success included mental health advocacy, and in a process led by the OIC, the mental health policy was adopted by Council. Additional

work in understanding student mental health has resulted in two new walk-in services on upper and Hiddingh campuses, the UCT Food Security Programme to help combat hunger, university-funded scholarships for black South African postgraduates, and approximately 600 additional beds.

A major project of our Naming of Buildings Committee has seen the renaming of Memorial Hall to Sarah Baartman Hall. This followed extensive consultation with the UCT community and Khoi and San leadership. The official renaming ceremony is set for 2019.

Our Works of Art Committee has also done significant work in honouring Baartman and the indigenous community. One of their major projects included the removal of the Sarah Baartman sculpture from the Chancellor Oppenheimer Library.

Again, working with our indigenous people, the portfolio and the OIC began the reinterment of ancestral remains with the Khoe community in Sutherland. As DVC, I will continue to chair this work, engaging throughout with the Khoe community. We hope that the restorative burial will take place in 2019.

2018 has been a rewarding and challenging one for the Transformation portfolio. Our commitment to the university community and all those with whom we interact is that we will continue to action the necessary changes and to engage until ours is a university inclusive of all diversities, cultures and identities.





# EMBRACING INCLUSIVITY

Panel discussions, art and film brought insight and fun to UCT's Rainbow Week, celebrated from 8 to 12 October.

The annual commemoration to help build an inclusive, non-discriminatory campus environment was arranged in partnership with the Office for Inclusivity and Change (OIC).

"Focusing on inclusion and queerness is particularly important at this time, as UCT is the first South African university to ratify a policy that protects the rights of sexually diverse people," said OIC director Dr Sianne Alves.

Viwe Tafeni, chair of the Rainbow UCT committee, said the event provided a safe space for people to express themselves. Tafeni said the OIC had been very supportive of Rainbow UCT and Rainbow Week.

"Coming from a student society, it's been a very valuable relationship and we are very happy to have that kind of acknowledgement and partnership with the university."

Discussions on disability and sexuality, trans identities and the invisibility of queerness in sport at UCT were part of the agenda. These conversations also tapped into student concerns about mental health and gender-based violence.

One short film, *Inxeba: The Wound*, as well as a documentary, *Displaced: Black and Queer*, were screened, encouraging discussions on culture and mental illness.

"They are the lived experiences of students in the university, but we don't necessarily talk about them," said Tafeni.

Alves said Rainbow Week encouraged everyone to make UCT a more inclusive place.

"Each of us at UCT has a role in building the culture of inclusion ... That role includes letting go of our inner biases and prejudices to make room for respectful engagement."

## HONOURING SARAH BAARTMAN

A major project of UCT's Naming of Buildings Committee saw the renaming of Memorial Hall to Sarah Baartman Hall – following extensive consultation with the UCT community and Khoi and San leadership by DVC Professor Loretta Feris.

Sarah Baartman, a young woman of 20, was taken to London and paraded as a freak of nature before dying in France in 1814 of disease and homesickness. Her humiliation did not end there, however. Her body was dissected and then displayed in the Musée de l'Homme until 1986. Her remains were finally returned to South Africa in 2002.

Baartman's story is a reminder that she suffered because of her gender, race and class. Having a building named after her, especially a university building, is a way to acknowledge that history in a meaningful way that adequately pays homage to the lives lost through slavery.

"This is an important step in the ongoing symbolic transformation of the university. In this way we want to hold her memory and restore to her name the dignity that was so brutally taken from her in the 19th century," said Vice-Chancellor Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng at a media conference in December.

UCT's Works of Art Committee (WOAC) has also done significant work in honouring Baartman and the indigenous community. One of their major projects included the removal of the Sarah Baartman sculpture from the Chancellor Oppenheimer Library – where it was robbed by students determined to restore her dignity.

"THIS IS AN IMPORTANT  
STEP IN THE  
ONGOING SYMBOLIC  
TRANSFORMATION  
OF THE UNIVERSITY."



# VC LAUNCHES SUBSTANTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR WOMEN

Vice-Chancellor Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng launched three substantial scholarships for women, focused on gender issues, as part of a UCT Women's Day event – For Women by Women – at Graça Machel Hall.

Guests of honour were UCT Chancellor Graça Machel and former UCT Vice-Chancellor Dr Mamphela Ramphele.

Much of Phakeng's address to the over 200 top-level representatives of the business, political, diplomatic, academic, student, faith and civil society sectors was devoted to giving a voice to marginalised women in society, particularly queer and trans women.

Announcing the scholarships, Phakeng said that while these would target human capital development, they would also "help us rethink our views of gender in South Africa and give us new insights into ourselves and others in different communities".

The awards are up to R1.5 million a year for five years and are aimed at three areas of research.

The first, "Scholarship for womxn by womxn", focuses on areas of study where women are under-represented.

"The idea here is to grow the number of women in areas of study where women are in short supply. It's important that women are visible in all areas of study and

not only areas of study that have to do with women issues," she said.

The second, "Scholarship for womxn by womxn on womxn", is for research in an area that focuses on women's issues and can include the intersection of gender with other marginalised identities.

The third, "Scholarship on re-imagining gender", will support research on transgender or nonconforming gender issues.

"These are people whose identities are outside the gender binaries many people are used to. We need to stop pretending that those people don't exist, and queerness is not African.

"As researchers and teachers, we can create the space for more women's voices to be heard – for their own advancement and for the advancement of others, to influence government policy and to help us learn how to make room for trans- and cisgendered women's voices and needs."

Education is one way of changing the world, Phakeng said, adding that she was proud of the role models UCT offered young women. Citing positive trends

among the student and staff demographics, she said women were finding their place on the UCT ladder.

"Most importantly, we must ensure nobody is held back just because of their race, gender or sexual orientation."

Successful women, she said, had all received a gift from their mothers, sisters, grandmothers, aunts and their role models at school and during the struggle.

"That gift is the belief that they have something special to contribute; that they have talents and skills they can develop to reach their full potential. That they can get where they want to be. That is what I want every UCT student and staff member to know.

"As a university, as researchers and teachers, we can also give this gift to the world: creating opportunities for more of us, for more kinds of us, to have a voice. Women in positions of power and leadership have a responsibility to do the kinds of things that will build up our collective womanhood.

"I am committing UCT to that responsibility."



## SPEAKING WITH TWO HANDS AND ALL 10 FINGERS

Two hands and 10 fingers are all it takes to learn a new language that's inclusive and transforming, staff learnt on a pilot Signing programme.

A sense of humour and some tenacity also eased the way for the eight staff members who are now able to greet people, and share their age, name and other basic personal details. They also learnt useful background on Deaf culture, said Lesego Modutle of the Disability Service in the Office for Inclusivity and Change.

Modutle and her colleague, writing development coordinator Glynnis Newdigate, created the pilot programme.

"I've noticed that Deaf people tend to be isolated; if there's no interpreter with them, they're basically cut off," said Modutle.

The pilot phase went very well and the students asked for a second level.

"But it's baby steps. We'd love to make this broader and for more members of

the university to come on board for the introductory course."

Deaf staff members Roy Priestley and Thumi Manvashe from the Faculty of Health Sciences were part of the pilot programme, and invaluable teachers and demonstrators.

"Sign language is like any other – a fully-fledged language with its own rules and structure," said Modutle. "The signs themselves are like pictures. For example, the sign for Cape Town is of Table Mountain. Once you start visualising it, it becomes easy."

Staff Learning Centre course coordinator Sibongile Dano-Bopape felt inadequate when dealing with Deaf people at the centre. Besides a basic greeting, she couldn't communicate.

This course has changed that.

## TAPPING INTO SOUTH AFRICA'S YOUTHFUL POTENTIAL

The New Generation of Academics Programme (nGAP), a Department of Higher Education and Training initiative, seeks to promote transformation by providing state funding to assist universities to hire young scholars.

In 2018 UCT grew its nGAP cohort by appointing five new lecturers to join the 12 appointed since 2015. The cohort also includes associate members – young academics at a similar career stage.

The nGAP posts are earmarked for black South Africans. At UCT, the Centre for Higher Education and Development has one post, Commerce has four, Engineering & the Built Environment two, Health Sciences five, Humanities two and Law one.

The nGAP lecturers meet regularly, develop their skills (for example in leadership training workshops) and take part in writing retreats that allow them to connect with one another and with their mentors – the senior academics who support and advise them.

Among the nGAP lecturers are Xolisa Guzula (School of Education) and Philile Mbatha (Environmental and Geographical Science).

Guzula has translated a book, *George's Secret Key to the Universe*, originally written by the father-and-daughter team of Stephen and Lucy Hawking. She is also heavily involved in community schools, providing her time and expertise in a model of engaged scholarship.

Mbatha said, "Finishing off [my] PhD with a full-time academic position had its challenges, but it stretched me to grow at a quicker rate than I ever imagined... [nGAP made] it possible for a young black female academic like myself (and there are not many of us around in the country) to realise my dreams at an earlier stage of my life."

### NEXT GENERATION PROFESSORIATE

Another transformation initiative is UCT'S Next Generation Professoriate (NGP) programme, which supports the promotion paths of black and female academic staff members. At the end of 2018 seven (out of 43) NGP members were promoted to the level of associate professor.

As the only mid-career transformation project at UCT, NGP has had to respond to questions from the UCT community and its own members. Associate Professor Manyi Mooya (Construction Economics and Management) reflects on this.

"There could be a perception that because you're a member of the cohort you get ... extra support that is not available to everybody."

He said he joined because he could see that the university was clearly committed to transformation at this level.

"I see my participation as a demonstration of support of that initiative."

For Nomonde Mbatani (Obstetrics and Gynaecology) the move into the NGP was less about acquiring a higher academic title, and more about remaining open to opportunities for growth.

Her main interest in the NGP programme is in improving her academic writing and publishing track record.

"You ... enter the clinical field because you want to help people, and before you know it you are working at a university where research output is expected.

"You've got all of the information. You've got the patients. You have the data. But how do you put that into words?"

Mbatani hopes that through her involvement in the NGP programme she will be able to pass academic writing and research skills on to her students.

Dr Nomonde Mbatani



# SUPPORTING DISABLED STUDENTS

UCT students with disabilities expressed gratitude for the way they've been assisted with tailor-made support, such as Braille readers and South African Sign Language interpreters, made possible by generous donations.

The FirstRand Foundation granted funding in excess of R11 million to UCT's Disability Service, enabling the appointment of Sign Language interpreters, note takers, technical aids, bursaries and improved transport for students with disabilities.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Transformation Professor Loretta Feris said disability is often "the forgotten part of transformation in our society", emphasising that this should change.

## ASSISTING STUDENTS

The support offered by the Disability Service is multifaceted.

Psychology student Jamie Adams, who lost her right leg in 2013, said the Disability Service staff had been "amazing" and her bursary helped immensely.

Dragon Naturally Speaking dictation software helped a PhD student with handwriting difficulties, while a low-vision mechanical engineering student used a Transformer HD magnifier to help with his technical drawings.

The service also assisted Tumishang Selamulela, who battled to keep up with the pace of his mechanical engineering degree.

"It [was] my dream to come to UCT to study engineering. It took me eight years to get to the end of a four-year degree. Eventually an educational psychologist determined that I had a learning disorder."


Selamulela received accommodation near campus, his tuition was paid and he was allotted extra time for every exam.

The Disability Service also acquired a new vehicle to transport disabled students and staff, making it the first unit at an academic institution in the Western Cape to provide this service.





# SOCIAL RESPONSIVENESS



We encourage UCT students and staff members to imagine what a better world would look like, and then make that world a reality through groundbreaking research and teaching. UCT works closely with neighbouring communities – including government offices, NGOs and service organisations – to develop health, safety, education and infrastructure solutions. Social responsiveness also involves recognising and correcting injustices of the past. We believe so strongly in social responsiveness that UCT issues an annual Social Responsiveness Report describing how we tackle social, economic, cultural and political needs, and we confer an annual Social Responsiveness Award on UCT academics who demonstrate how social engagement can enhance the teaching and learning process.





# SCHOOLTIES

Vice-Chancellor Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng has recommitted UCT to nurturing relationships with high schools after meeting with principals from across the metropole.

Phakeng invited principals and stakeholders to participate in open dialogue with the university, and shared her vision for UCT's future.

"As a university, we don't exist on our own. We don't just take students – they come from elsewhere. They exist in a community and we, as a university, are also part of a community.

"You should see UCT as an extension of your school," she told the principals.

Of the recent student protests,

Phakeng said she supported mindful student activism provided the rights of others aren't impacted.

"Activism is important ... Sometimes it's a wake-up call for us as a society; a wake-up call for us to look at things that we haven't been paying attention to."

With student protests focused on the lack of transformation, and how students feel a sense of alienation on campus, the action calls into question the past, and what the future should look like.

"We've decided to reclaim the university as a place of ideas, a place where ideas grow and are encouraged; where ideas are not silenced but are allowed to exist," Phakeng said.

To new recruits from schools across the province, country and continent Phakeng said, "We give you the space to come here and shape it into being the best university. It's the diversity that we bring that's going to make our university the best in the world."

## COMMITTED TO HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

To cultivate inclusivity on and off campus, Vice-Chancellor Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng visited several health sites and community projects around Cape Town.

"As the new leadership at UCT, we felt it important to come and visit, connect with and get to know the people we work with in the community, the professionals who help train our students," Phakeng said.

Her visits included the Hanover Park Community Health Clinic, Mitchells Plain Hospital, Ubuntu HIV-TB Clinic in Khayelitsha, and the Desmond Tutu HIV Centre Emavundleni clinical research site in Crossroads.

During their internships, students learn medical skills from professional clinicians and receive guidance in "softer" issues like

communication and community projects.

Mitchells Plain Hospital site facilitator Christolene Beazac-McKay said UCT students have played an integral role in initiating and running several successful community projects. One of the most recent – the Buddy-Buddy system – was launched at local schools to help children deal with peer pressure. Thanks to the success of the project, the Department of Education hopes to roll it out at other schools.

The university also plays an important role in expanding clinical research capabilities within communities. The Ubuntu

Clinic and Emavundleni Research Centre, for example, are in the first phase of running a 36-month HIV vaccine HVTN702 trial, with results expected in 2021/22.

Although UCT's Faculty of Health Sciences is making an impact, the health sites and local community representatives agree that they would like to see more involvement from other sectors of the university too.

Phakeng said the university leadership would look at ways in which to partner with communities to assist with these challenges.



# ON THE FRONT LINE AGAINST RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

UCT's Survivor Support Office in the Office for Inclusivity and Change (OIC) has trained a new cohort of advisers to be on after-hours call for rape or sexual assault cases.

The OIC offers a suite of services involving the university's staff or students, on campus and in surrounding areas. For rape and sexual assault, this includes 24-hour emergency assistance, support and advice.

The training includes counselling skills and understanding the short- and long-term physical, psychological and emotional impact of sexual assault and rape, and addresses the myths and attitudes society has about sexual assault and abuse.

Standby adviser Dr Gaelle Ramon said it's essential to assure the survivor there's help at hand – and that they're not alone. Ramon is one of 11 staff members who completed standby adviser training with Rashieda Khan, the head of the Survivor Support Office.

"Empathy is an absolute must. Standby advisers need to be respectful, trustworthy, friendly, calm and welcoming and know how to remain neutral," said Ramon.

Newly trained adviser Nuraan Hartley said that this work is part of her commitment to building more robust, educated and empowered communities.

"In my role, I deal with students daily and very often they reach out to me. Many of our students are suffering silently, so I am happy to be there for them. We must learn to break the silence," Hartley said.



## 'FEARLESS' HIV ACTIVIST WINS TUTU AWARD

In recognition of her outstanding work to advance both HIV prevention research and the human rights of people affected by HIV, UCT Professor of Medicine Linda-Gail Bekker was awarded the 2018 Desmond Tutu Award for HIV Prevention Research and Human Rights.

The award was presented at the 2018 HIV Research for Prevention (HIVR4P) conference in Madrid, Spain, in October.

University of Zimbabwe professor Zvavahera Mike Chirenje, HIVR4P co-chair, described Bekker as "tireless and innovative".

"From her clinics in the ... townships of Cape Town, to her role as chief operating officer of the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation and in her capacity as immediate past president of the International Aids Society, Linda-Gail's fearless advocacy and personalised models of care have saved lives and helped to break down barriers of stigma and discrimination in HIV prevention," he said.

Bekker's user-friendly clinics offer models of service that engage and welcome everyone, especially those

traditionally overlooked by the health system, her citation said. The mobile "Tutu testers" she has championed take voluntary HIV testing, counselling and information to communities throughout South Africa.

In the research field, Bekker has advanced efforts to integrate the diagnosis, treatment and care of HIV and tuberculosis. She has also co-led international research studies to develop innovative new HIV prevention methods and has called for increased financial and political support for HIV prevention research.

"This award reminds us that, ultimately, all the work we do is to improve the lives and well-being of men, women and young people ... and that's what really matters," Bekker said.

# SHAWCO

## 75 YEARS OF GIVING BACK

The Students' Health and Welfare Centres Organisation (SHAWCO) marked its 75th anniversary with a fundraising drive to raise R75 million, but still found time to embark on a 750 km "journey to health" in the Western Cape, to conduct a winter-warmth drive for Mandela Day, to graduate hundreds of learners from its Saturday School Programme, and to provide relief to thousands left homeless by fire.

Founded in July 1945 by UCT medical student Andrew Kinnear, SHAWCO began with a single primary healthcare clinic. With a vision to promote an informed, healthy and thriving community, today SHAWCO leads health, education and social entrepreneurship initiatives through two main service sectors: SHAWCO Education and SHAWCO Health.

In 2018 SHAWCO Education benefited from the assistance of 1 228 registered student volunteers, and SHAWCO Health from a further 897.

For their main anniversary fundraiser, SHAWCO called on UCT, Cape Town and the country to make donations to help them hit their R75 million target. All funds raised would be ploughed back into their health and education initiatives.

From 3 to 7 May, 40 health volunteers undertook a 750 km journey to health, targeting 750 adults, especially women and children. Assisted by community members and volunteer health workers, they took their student-led mobile clinics to the Western Cape's most needy and underserved communities to provide essential services.

An exhibition at the South African Jewish Museum in July, titled *Touching Lives: The SHAWCO Story*, showcased SHAWCO's work over the decades, including personal stories and a display of artefacts and photographs.

"I don't think there's anything else quite like SHAWCO. I don't think there is anything out there that has the scope, the extent and the joy that it brings to so many people on so many different levels," former director Gavin Joachims said at the time.

On Mandela Day SHAWCO went out into communities to honour Madiba's example of "paying it forward". The volunteers fed underprivileged children in Manenberg; conducted a winter-warmth drive in Manenberg, Khayelitsha, Gugulethu and Kensington; and handed 100 blankets to migrant women at the Scalabrini Centre, and 82 to the Ikamva Labantu Charitable Trust.

In October a graduation ceremony recognised learners who had completed the Saturday School Programme, an educational intervention that engages with more than 200 matric learners from 42 schools in Cape Town's disadvantaged communities. The programme, started in 2008, aims to boost learners' academic skills, along with their self-confidence, in preparation for tertiary studies.

SHAWCO launched its Blou Maandag (Blue Monday) campaign the same month, with giant blue inflatable SHAWCO hearts being driven around Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban. They called for people to wear blue every Monday to raise awareness about their activities, but also to see them become more socially conscious.

When a devastating fire in Khayelitsha on 20 October left around 4 000 people homeless, SHAWCO stepped in, supplying clothing, shoes, blankets, stationery and food to those in need. Just weeks later, on 9 November, they again responded when more than 800 people were left homeless in a second fire in Overcome Heights, in Capricorn Park.

"I DON'T THINK THERE IS ANYTHING OUT THERE THAT HAS THE SCOPE, THE EXTENT AND THE JOY THAT IT BRINGS TO SO MANY PEOPLE ON SO MANY DIFFERENT LEVELS."





# CHILDREN BENEFIT FROM UCT SOCIAL BONDS

The Bertha Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship at UCT's Graduate School of Business joined forces with the Western Cape Department of Social Development (DSD) to launch a social impact bond fund to benefit local Early Childhood Development (ECD) targets.

Experts at the centre said the Impact Bond Innovation Fund (IBIF) will pave the way for the use of innovative financial mechanisms and public-private partnerships to boost public service outcomes. The IBIF, a first for the global south, comes after three years of research and discussion between the DSD and the centre.

Dr Susan de Witt, Innovative Finance lead at the Bertha Centre, said investing

in ECD has been shown to yield higher returns in human development than the equivalent investment in primary, secondary or even university education.

The IBIF, said De Witt, entails the collection of data that enables decision makers to improve the programme while giving service providers the flexibility to respond to issues on the ground.

"It is a model that ... focuses everyone's

attention on what we ultimately want to achieve, for example, has the child hit development milestones, and are they ready to learn by the time they get to school.

"This is rather than focusing on pragmatic issues such as funding for staff, teaching time or building materials," she explained.

The IBIF is projected to reach 3 000 children over three years.

## KHOISAN SKELETONS RETURN HOME

In a move to remedy the injustices of the past, UCT is working with the community of Sutherland in the Northern Cape to return the skeletal remains of nine people.

The university was shocked to discover that its Human Skeletal Collection in the Faculty of Health Sciences included 11 skeletons obtained unethically in the 1920s.

Dr Victoria Gibbon, who manages the collection, analysed the records following a discussion on the ethical procurement of human remains at a national symposium in 2017. The very limited documentation indicates that the skeletons are of people who died in the 19th century. At least nine

of them were probably Khoisan slaves on a farm in Sutherland.

When the documentation on the nine Sutherland skeletons – believed to be related to the Stuurman and Abraham families – was discovered, the university began investigating how it could return them to their place of origin.

Alfred Stuurman described his relief and elation when he heard the news about the remains. "We now know where we come from."

Stuurman's niece, Sensa Mietas, said, "It was a big shock at first, but I am very relieved. I was also very happy to realise that there are people who care."

A team from the university, led by Deputy Vice-Chancellor Loretta Feris, visited Sutherland to meet the families and members of the community, including traditional and religious leaders.

"We now have the opportunity to ... see that justice is done ... not just to those who were removed from their graves, but also to the descendants," said Feris.

## SOCIAL RESPONSIVENESS AWARD FOR SII

The Schools Improvement Initiative (SII) was the recipient of the annual Social Responsiveness Award, which was presented during the April graduation.

Designed to address the crisis in public education, the SII was launched in 2012 in partnership with Khayelitsha schools and the Western Cape Education Department. The initiative aims to extend UCT's engagement in schooling and make a positive impact on the quality of education in the classroom.

The SII was formed to harness the university's broader resources and create meaningful partnerships with education-related groupings, both inside and outside UCT, and to boost the number of black students qualifying to study at UCT and other universities.

Through the SII programmes, UCT mobilises university-level resources to improve the quality of teaching and management in three primary schools in Khayelitsha.

Among the SII's standout successes is its 100UP programme, which operates in all 20 secondary schools in the township and a further 11 secondary schools in Mitchells Plain.

Since the inception of 100UP in 2011, over 1 000 learners have participated in the programme and a measure of its success is that of its 963 matriculants who obtained B-degree passes, 851 (or 88%) have gone on to study at university, with 446 of those at UCT.

In 2017 the first cohort of 100UP students graduated from UCT.

# UCT CYCLING CLUB'S BUMPER YEAR

In a year of firsts, the UCT Cycling Club elected its first female chair, initiated several community projects, and saw the formation of a women's racing team.

UCT Cycling's focus on social upliftment saw them sign an agreement with the Pedal Power Association (PPA) to begin a scholarship programme in 2019.

"The aim of the programme is to get an underprivileged learner into university through cycling," said pioneering female club chair Megan McCarley.

Another club initiative, Track Tuesdays, was aimed at developing a love of cycling among high-school learners, especially those from high-risk communities.

Earlier this year they encouraged cyclists and other sportspeople to donate their unwanted medals for distribution to children in hospital, collecting 400 medals.

For Women's Month, UCT Cycling hosted a series of events and talks to celebrate women in sport. In lieu of entrance fees, they collected donations of feminine hygiene products, which were later distributed by SHAWCO Health.

The club also organised a Breast Cancer Awareness Club Ride on 21 October.

With only four women racing previously for UCT Cycling, the arrival of three strong female cyclists in 2018 meant a women's team could finally become a reality. They soon made their presence felt on the cycling scene with Hayley Preen winning the women's division at the University Sport South Africa (USSA) Cycling Championships.

The women also competed in Western Province league races where Preen and teammate Courtney Webb both notched up multiple wins.



Photo UCT Cycling





# STUDENT

In 2018 UCT was home to 28 693 students from 109 countries across the globe, speaking over 90 different home languages. This diversity is our strength. We want our students to find at UCT a home away from home, where they feel supported in all facets of their university lives. The student experience is focused on academics, but it's also about social interest opportunities such as student-based societies, development agencies, sports codes and getting involved with local communities and making a difference in the world. Our students contribute to the university in multiple ways. By exercising their leadership and making their voices heard they ensure a constantly evolving, responsive and relevant UCT.

**DR MOONIRA KHAN**  
**Executive Director: Department of Student Affairs**





UCT's Careers Service has grown from strength to strength since it was established in 1968 in a small wooden building next to what is now the Leslie Social Science building.

# 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

The head, Niels Lindhard, promised an "open-door principle" for students to get advice on job opportunities, and for employers to learn recruitment skills.

Fifty years later, the UCT Careers Service has evolved into a world-class, award-winning department within the Centre for Higher Education Development (CHED). In April 2018 it celebrated five decades of service excellence and dedication to helping students navigate the changing world of work.

The event was bittersweet, however, as it marked the departure of director David Casey. Colleagues praised Casey for his leadership of the powerful Careers Service team, which has grown into an example of global best practice and innovation.

Dean of CHED Associate Professor Suellen Shay acknowledged his ability to network, his approach to lifelong learning, and his aptitude for turning challenges into opportunities. But Casey was quick to praise the efforts of his team.

"All this is achieved by a small but growing team of professional, dedicated and student-centred individuals. We constantly strive to empower and bring out the best in each other and the students we serve."

The Careers Service has always been known for its innovation, even in the 1970s when it developed from being a matchmaker between graduates and employers to an advisory service. It began guiding companies in their recruitment practices and provided students with survey-based insights on starting salaries, first occupations and subject choice. It ran its first three-day careers conference in 1984.

The service has celebrated many milestones. Most recently, it launched

the reimagined Careers Festival – which incorporated expos, career talks and the inaugural Student Entrepreneurship Week – that was attended by 15 000 students over a 10-week period.

The August 2018 Epic Job Expo was the largest of its kind held at UCT, combining five expos into one, hosting 100 exhibitors and giving students an opportunity to meet multiple possible future employers on a single day.

Besides being an opportunity to engage with students, the exhibitors could also contribute to a job wall, advertising particular career opportunities ranging from vacation work and internships to graduate jobs and international placements.

The technology, retail, banking, travel and healthcare sectors were arranged in five zones, making it easier for students to navigate according to their particular interests. Participants included big name corporates as well as smaller firms and start-ups.

"Students find it's a good platform for them to find not just job opportunities but internships ... bursary opportunities and vacation programmes," said Careers Service acting director Nawal Boolay.

"Employers want to come back because UCT graduates are well received. We've had positive feedback from employers year-on-year."

The Careers Service also provides an online portal linking students to employer opportunities and events, and offers a career-related online resource 24/7 via its website.

"Perhaps the measure of what has happened to the Careers Service is that it has been ranked, for many years now, as the best service in South Africa," commented former Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price at the 50-year celebrations.



# ADDRESSING SEXUAL ORIENTATION ISSUES

Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is tackled head-on by the university in its Inclusivity Policy for Sexual Orientation, which was ratified in December 2017 and promoted during the Student Wellness Service's Wellness Drive in August 2018.

The policy aims to create a campus environment for staff and students that is free from discrimination in all spheres, including teaching content and language, the university's code of conduct, and culture.

Dr Sianne Alves, director of the Office for Inclusivity and Change (OIC), said the university initiated the development of the policy in 2014.

"[T]he aim of the policy is to provide a discrimination-free environment that is reflected in the way we teach, the way we communicate, the way we engage with one another in creating an inclusive culture on campus for sexually diverse populations," she said.

The document outlines six main areas for implementation of the inclusivity policy. The first of these is teaching practice, where academic staff and tutors

are "strongly encouraged to review their language and lecture content" to ensure that it is non-discriminatory.

Other areas where recommendations for inclusivity are made are communication and media, institutional culture, service provision, policy adherence, and the roles and responsibilities of various offices and groups at UCT.

"[A] number of people developed the policy with us, and that included the Trans Collective, Rainbow UCT, sexually diverse staff and students, and allies of the sexually diverse populations on campus," said Alves.

"We broadened our consultation beyond the normal structures within the institution ... so that we could generate as much consultation and feedback [as possible]. There was great support for it to exist."

## ADDRESSING STIGMA

Addressing staff and students during the Wellness Drive, Dr Memory Muturiki, director of the Student Wellness Service, stressed that issues around HIV, sexual orientation and gender-based violence are all inter-related.

"At the moment these are issues that students are actually talking about [but] a lot of students do not come forward on time and do not know with whom to speak.

"Sometimes there is stigma around certain issues and we wanted to highlight and raise awareness ... around gender-based violence and [inclusivity] so that people may start having dialogues around what is correct and how can you seek help and where you should go," she said.

"Student Wellness and the Department of Student Affairs are here, and we are ready to support."

Alves said that any member of the university who experiences discrimination based on their sexual orientation or gender identity can report incidents to the OIC.

"I think it's critically important to also reach out to your lay counselling staff, to staff services who provide mental health support. Students who are experiencing harassment should also seek out services through Student Wellness, because self-care is extremely important in those moments."

"THE AIM OF THE POLICY IS TO PROVIDE A DISCRIMINATION-FREE ENVIRONMENT THAT IS REFLECTED IN THE WAY WE TEACH, THE WAY WE COMMUNICATE, THE WAY WE ENGAGE WITH ONE ANOTHER ..."



# TURNING PAIN INTO MOTIVATION

Sipho Mbadaliga had to endure a series of tragedies on his journey to completing his Bachelor of Business Science specialising in finance and accounting.



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Growing up in the small rural community of Madombidzha in Limpopo, Mbadaliga's aims for university transcended merely getting a degree.

"When I came to university, I came with the aim of making my parents and community proud," he said. "This is what really pushed me to try and excel."

Mbadaliga's impressive academic results bear testimony to his dedication. But during the first semester of 2017, his final year, he received heartbreaking news: his otherwise healthy father, a teacher, had suddenly passed away.

"It was the worst day of my life ... He sacrificed a lot in order for me to be where I am today. I made a promise to myself that I would dedicate every sweat and tear in pursuit of this degree to him."

About a month later his brother-in-law died. And three days after that, one of his closest friends also lost her life.

"I was at the lowest point of my life. My friend passed away on the Friday, and on the Monday I had test week – four tests in a row. So for me it was, like, 'How am I even going to deal with this?'"

Mbadaliga was unable to attend his brother-in-law's and friend's funerals.

"I just couldn't fall behind anymore. Two weeks of work in final year is hectic. I had to come back. I had to catch up."

So Mbadaliga wrote his tests.

"They didn't go well at all. I failed three and passed one ... something that had

never happened in my life. I was falling into depression."

To make matters worse, he was struggling to pay his fees. Fortunately the company that had sponsored his initial years of study agreed to finance him for the remainder of his degree.

With 2017 the year that almost broke him, he could easily have given up. "But here I am, still standing and still pushing."

In 2018, when this article was written, he was pursuing his Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting, before starting his articles on his journey towards qualifying as a chartered accountant.

"I have an obligation to my late father, to make him proud," he said.

"There are people that are facing greater challenges, but I would like them to use my story as a source of hope and encouragement.

"I think it's important for those around them to reach out to them, because we have a tendency to say, 'If you need anything, just shout.' Some people never shout. When you're going through things, you never shout. You think that everything's fine.

"So it's very important to have a support structure and for the people around you to reach out to you.

"Mental health issues at university are serious ... It is extremely important to check up on your peers, as you may be their last hope."



# AIMING FOR 'PRACTICAL CHANGES'

Asanda Lobelo, the new president of the Students' Representative Council (SRC), brings a quiet confidence and an inner resolve to her role. The third-year BCom student took the helm in October after the Economic Freedom Fighters Students Command (EFFSC) secured a 51% victory in the 2018/19 SRC elections.

Lobelo, who is the chairperson of the EFFSC, topped the list for the highest number of votes.

The SRC is the highest decision-making structure of student governance and is elected annually.

The past few years have been difficult for student governance, but Lobelo said her team is embracing their diversity.

"We want to open up forums of debate and engagement, but also to work towards making practical changes at UCT ... We want to use our differences to make a difference."

The thread of transformation and decolonisation will run through much of what the council intends to do in 2019, she added. A recurring theme is curriculum change. Mental health issues will remain pivotal, and gender-based violence will be a central issue in their work.

The SRC has developed a five-pillar programme, focusing on student empowerment, worker empowerment, academic success, organic diversity and an Afrocentric environment.

"We want to bring meaning into what is to be African," explained Lobelo.

"We need to give students a voice. I also think the university needs to realise that they don't have all the answers. Sometimes they just need to listen ... That would help us in working together for a stronger and better UCT."

## OUR NEW STUDENT LEADERS

Students' Representative Council (SRC) elections were held from 24 to 28 September, with a total of 41 students on the list of candidates. Fifteen representatives were duly elected, including nine women.

A higher voter turnout was recorded compared to the 2017 elections, and students were able to vote either online or at voting stations on campus.

The 2018 SRC adopted their vision and mission when their term of office commenced on 1 November 2018.

Their vision is to "foster an Afrocentric environment that promotes academic success and empowers students and workers through an intersectional and decolonial approach".

The SRC's mission is to:

- prioritise the bio-psycho-social well-being of all students, while promoting student empowerment by ensuring that UCT is a hub of diverse, robust ideological engagement that allows for genuine student participation
- ensure sustainable change at the institution while bringing into effect the framework of the Curriculum Change Working Group (CCWG) as part of addressing the colonial structures at work in society
- advocating for the recognition of workers as legitimate stakeholders of the institution, while prioritising the well-being of workers in the same way as students
- harness our differences to create an innovative, student-centred SRC and broader student governance structure, underpinned by values of accountability, transparency and efficiency
- institute the necessary academic support to ensure academic success for all students across all faculties.





## 'FORCE OF NATURE' WINS VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARD

Third-year BCom student Sarina Mpharalala was hailed as "a force of nature" by Vice-Chancellor Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng as she named her the winner of the Vice-Chancellor's Award at the 15th Student Leadership Awards on 17 October.

The Departments of Student Affairs' awards event acknowledges individual students and student teams for their leadership contributions in respect of community, social justice, entrepreneurship and media.

Phakeng said of Mpharalala that she has a passion for leadership, entrepreneurship, empowerment and social impact, and has managed to maintain academic excellence while serving UCT as part of initiatives and organisations that have put her skills and capabilities to positive use. She had also founded a social entrepreneurship venture to help women access job opportunities.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor's Award was presented to medical student Husna Moola in recognition of her tenacity and leadership.

Nicholas Loxton and Langa Twala were joint recipients of the Kerry Capstick-Dale Award for student leadership and the Ackerman Family Award went to Ruth Amooore.

Other awards included:

**Executive Director's Award:** Dalingcebo Maseko

**Social Responsiveness:** Kira Dusterwald  
**Media and Arts:** Wiwe Tafeni, Jarita

Kassen, Tamutswa Claire Mahari and Star Senamile Zwane

**Entrepreneur:** Nicholas Loxton

**Leadership Excellence:** Langa Twala, Liam Devenish, Naledi Mbaba, Tamika Mtegha and Daniel Tate

The Student Team of the Year Award was presented to SHAWCO Health.

Other teams that won awards were: My Domain, UCT Surgical Society, Varsity News Collective, Students for Law and Social Justice, Health Sciences Student Council and Postgraduate Law Students Council.

## UCT'S SPORTS STARS

After a year of noteworthy achievements, the university celebrated its sportspeople at the Sports Awards Dinner on 19 October 2018.

"I think we often neglect to say how special [UCT Sport] is," said Brendon Fourie, outgoing chair of the Sports Union. "This is the one university where everything at a code level is really run by students."

While students may be at the heart of the sporting culture at UCT, they are backed by dedicated and committed staff members, not least Peter Buckton, who was honoured at the dinner for his almost 48 years of service.

"He started here as a teenager and ... went from one position to another, until he became senior sports coordinator," said Dr Corinne Shaw, incoming chair of the Sports Council.

Buckton retired at the end of 2018.

The high point of the evening was the presentation of the Jamison Cup for Sportsperson of the Year 2018, with UCT Athletics member and Paralympian Mpumelelo Mhlongo taking the honour for the fourth consecutive year.

The accolade comes after Mhlongo brought home a host of medals from various national and international meets, including two golds from the World Para Athletics Grand Prix.

Other notable awards conferred include the Lydia Hall Club of the Year and the Transformation and Outreach trophies to Mountain & Ski, coach of the year to Michael du Plessis (karate), the Turpin Cup for service to sport to Bronwyn White (fencing) and the Butterworth Cup for team of the year to U20A Rugby.



# UCT CROWNS M&G'S TOP 200

UCT shines ever brighter in the annual Mail & Guardian 200 Young South Africans list – out of the 200 exceptional young people featured on the 2018 list, 51 were UCT staff, students and alumni.

The list recognises notable South Africans under the age of 35 who have made a mark for themselves in categories ranging from business and entrepreneurship, to the environment, arts and entertainment.

In 2017, 30 UCT staff, students and alumni were included in the line-up, up from 22 in 2016.

The following people from UCT feature on the 2018 list:

**Arts and entertainment:** Thembaethu Mfebe, Angel Campey, Jade Bowers, Nick Mulgrew, Yusrah Bardien

**Business and entrepreneurship:** Itumeleng Mothibeli, Matthew Butler-Adam, Philisiwe Precious Nduli, Rivo Mhlari

**Civil society:** Ariane Nevin, B Camminga, Farhana Parker, Gilbert Pooley, Michael Marchant, Wandisa Phama

**Education:** Alude Mahali, Mzwendaba Jizani, Nomkhosi Luthuli, Paballo Chauke, Simphiwe Madlanga, Taahira Goolam Hoosen

**Environment:** Christine Reddell, Kimon de Greef, Lillian Maboya, Mpho Ndaba, Nicole Loser, Zoleka Filander

**Film and media:** Greig Cameron, Jessie Zinn, Zandile Tisani

**Health:** Itumeleng Tsatsi, Julia Turner, Kim Buchholtz, Mvuwo Tshavhungwe, Nikhat Hoosen, Nkateko Mnisi

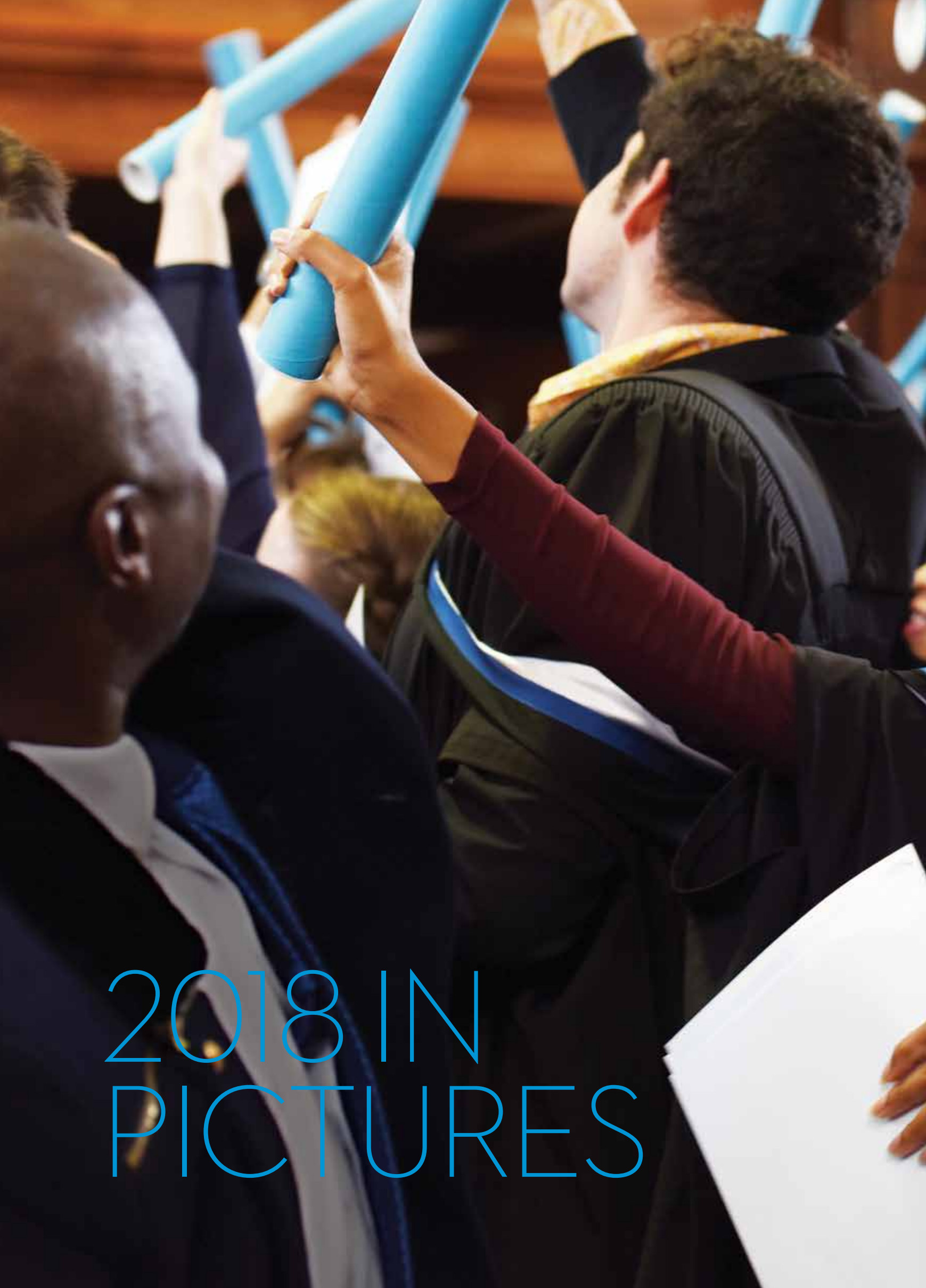
**Justice and law:** Anjuli Maistry, Lauren Kohn Goldschmidt, Thabo Ngilande

**Science and technology:** Apiwe Hotele, Sahba Nomvula Besharati, Thulwaneng Mashifane, Khanyisile Kgoadi, Lebogang Mahlare, Lungile Hlatshwayo, Matthew Westaway, Neo Hutiri, Ntsako Mgiba, Pule Segale, Takunda Mambo

**Sport:** Michael Kumbirai

In celebration of their achievements, Vice-Chancellor Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng hosted a cocktail function at the Vineyard Hotel, Claremont, on 7 September with the UCT staff, students and alumni on the 2018 *Mail & Guardian* list. Congratulating the 51 UCT recipients, the vice-chancellor emphasised how proud she was of them and the exceptional contribution to society they were making in their respective disciplines.





2018 IN  
PICTURES







"TODAY I AM THE PERSON I AM BECAUSE THE [EBE] FACULTY BELIEVED IN ME. THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF MY CAREER AND I WILL GRAB THE OPPORTUNITY WITH BOTH HANDS AND ENSURE THAT I WILL CONTINUE DEVELOPING MYSELF TO BECOME ONE OF THE GREATEST LEADERS IN THE COUNTRY."

**NKULULEKO DLAMINI, WHO OVERCAME MULTIPLE DIFFICULTIES TO COMPLETE HIS ENGINEERING STUDIES**

Queen's Young Leader awardee Siposetu Mbuli (left) exchanges a word with the Duchess of Sussex, Meghan Markle at the Buckingham Palace award ceremony.

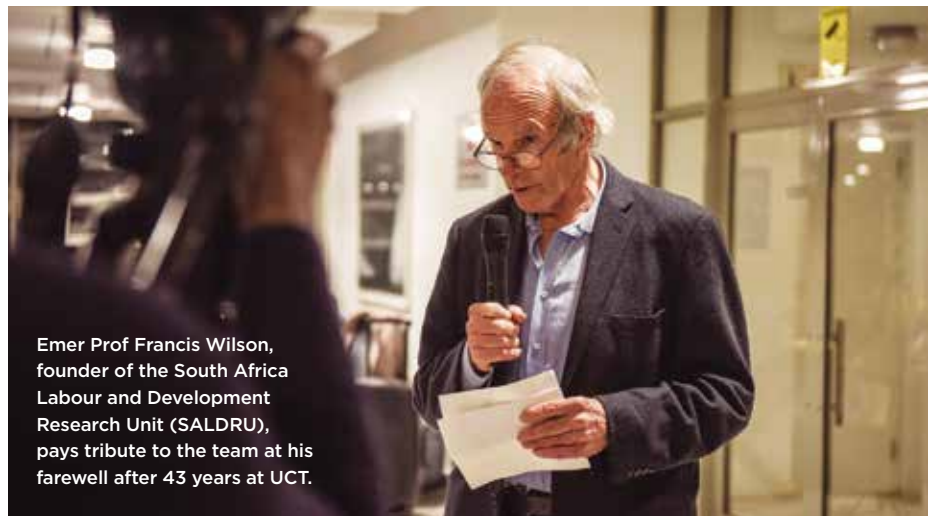
Thamsanqa Hoza receives the Queen's Young Leader Award.



Photo British Ceremonial Arts Ltd



Photo British Ceremonial Arts Ltd



Emer Prof Francis Wilson, founder of the South Africa Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU), pays tribute to the team at his farewell after 43 years at UCT.

# LA AWETHU

Fourth-year medical students Banele Mhlongo (right) and Vuma Mthembu developed an app to improve the experience of deaf patients.







Photo: Dan Green

"WE ARE IN A TRANSITIONAL MOMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY AND ALL TRANSITIONS ARE COMPLEX BECAUSE THE NEW IS NOT YET THERE AND THE OLD IS STILL 'MOVING'. BUT FOR ME ALL TRANSITIONS ARE MOMENTS OF HOPE AND POSSIBILITY. IN MY AREA, I FEEL THAT WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS AND I REALLY HAVE A STRONG SENSE OF POSSIBILITY. THIS IS A FANTASTIC PLACE. PEOPLE DON'T REALISE THE EXTRAORDINARY CONCENTRATION OF CAPACITY PER SQUARE METRE THAT THIS UNIVERSITY HAS."

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR LIS LANGE, UCT'S DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING**

**RIGHT** The Michaelis School of Fine Art annual collaborative public art project aimed to lay bare the invisibility of gender-based violence.



Photo: Carla Meyer.



Medee Rall and Ferial Parker with some of the 100UP learners at the 2018 Summer School.





Formerly the Arts Block, the renamed AC Jordan Building commemorates the institution's first black African lecturer.



"WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF OPENING UP SPACES TO ALLOW DISCOURSE TO BLEED IN AND CHALLENGE THE NOTION THAT THE UNIVERSITY IS A PLACE OF SIMPLISTIC OBJECT-DRIVEN SPACES. IT'S A FLUID SPACE. WE HAVE TO ALLOW THESE DISCOURSES TO GIVE US GLIMPSES OF WHAT IT MAY LOOK LIKE IN THE FUTURE."

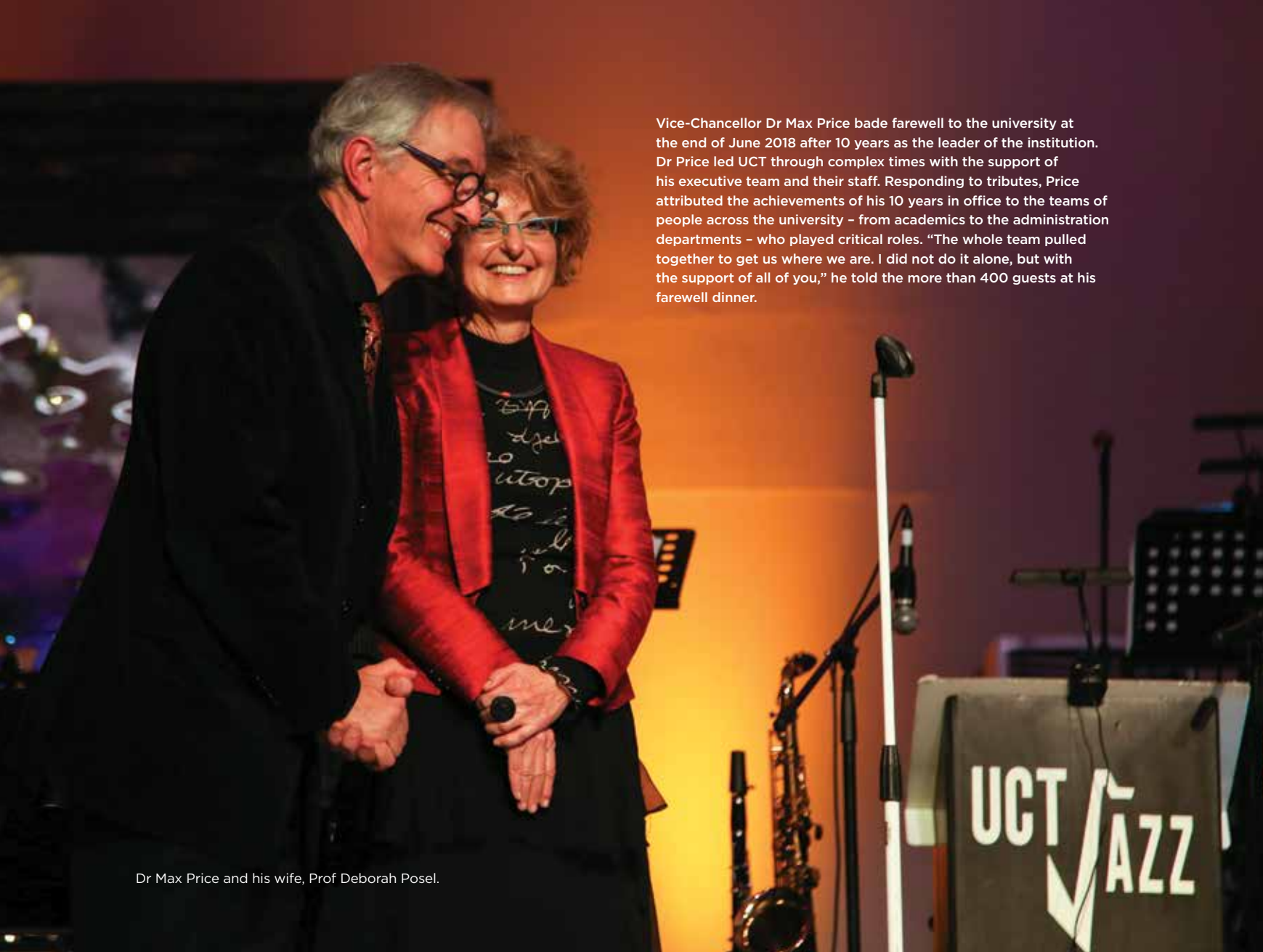
**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR  
JAY PATHER, DIRECTOR  
OF THE INSTITUTE FOR  
CREATIVE ARTS**



2017/2018 SRC







Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price bade farewell to the university at the end of June 2018 after 10 years as the leader of the institution. Dr Price led UCT through complex times with the support of his executive team and their staff. Responding to tributes, Price attributed the achievements of his 10 years in office to the teams of people across the university – from academics to the administration departments – who played critical roles. “The whole team pulled together to get us where we are. I did not do it alone, but with the support of all of you,” he told the more than 400 guests at his farewell dinner.

Dr Max Price and his wife, Prof Deborah Posel.



**ABOVE** Prof Njabulo S Ndebele, Dr Max Price, Dr Stuart Saunders, Prof Mamokgethi Phakeng and Dr Mamphele Ramphela – UCT’s former and current vice-chancellors.





"WHENEVER MY GRANDMOTHER TALKS ABOUT US AND SCHOOL, SHE ALWAYS REFERS TO MY DAD. SHE TELLS HER GRANDCHILDREN HOW SHE DECIDED NOT TO BUY SHOES AND INSTEAD PAID SCHOOL FEES ... I COULD HAVE GIVEN UP WHEN I LOST MY PARENTS, BUT I DIDN'T BECAUSE I KNEW WHAT I WANTED ... I REALLY WISH MY DAD WAS AROUND TO SHOW HIM I MADE IT TO UCT."

**TAFADZWA MUSHONGA, THE FIRST PHD GRADUATE FROM THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES SOUTH**



Football players form a guard of honour for sports coordinator Peter Buckton, refereeing his final game at UCT.







**LEFT** UCT's first-team hockey goalkeeper Nepo Serage was chosen to represent South Africa at the Youth Olympic Games.

Photo Arnold Dippenaar Photography

Photo Gavin Withers



"THIS IS THE DAY FOR YOU TO GO OUT AND CONQUER THE WORLD. LIFT YOUR FLAG UP HIGH AND KEEP YOUR LIGHT SHINING BRIGHT!"

**ARTIST, UCT MUSIC / EDUCATION GRADUATE AND IMBONGI SANGE M NELISWA SAMPI-MXUNYELWA AT THE FACULTY OF COMMERCE GRADUATION CEREMONY ON 14 DECEMBER 2018**

**RIGHT** Justice Yvonne Mokgoro received an honorary degree from the Faculty of Law.







**LEFT** Smuts Hall subwardens wearing branded clothing to commemorate the residence's 90th anniversary.

**BELOW LEFT** In recognition of Chris Hani's contribution to South Africa's democracy, UCT renamed the New Science Lecture Theatre in his honour.



"WHATEVER DEFINITION YOU USE FOR TEACHING, OR WHATEVER FORM IT TAKES, FOR THOSE OF US WHO ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT ENGAGING, AWAKENING AND MOTIVATING STUDENTS TO LEARN (AND THERE ARE MANY OF US AT THIS UNIVERSITY), THE RECOGNITION OF OUR EFFORTS IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF KEEPING US ON TRACK, OF REASSURING US THAT WE'RE 'DOING THE RIGHT THING'."

**PHYSICS PROFESSOR GREGOR LEIGH, RECIPIENT OF A 2018 DISTINGUISHED TEACHER AWARD**

VC Prof Mamokgethi Phakeng looks on as Dr Sahal Yacoob, from the Department of Physics, introduces himself to fellow members of the 2030 Future Leaders programme.





"THE BIRTH OF THIS POLICY IS SOMETHING OUR STUDENTS AND STAFF CAN BE PROUD OF. THIS IS SUCH A MILESTONE FOR UCT AND IT'S A MILESTONE FOR SOUTH AFRICA, BEING ONE OF THE FIRST UNIVERSITIES TO ACTUALLY RATIFY A POLICY DEDICATED TO THE INCLUSION OF SEXUALLY DIVERSE POPULATIONS."

**DR SIANNE ALVES, DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR INCLUSIVITY AND CHANGE, ON THE LAUNCH OF THE INCLUSIVITY POLICY FOR SEXUAL ORIENTATION**



Gwenda Thomas, executive director of UCT Libraries, took up a new post at the University of Melbourne.



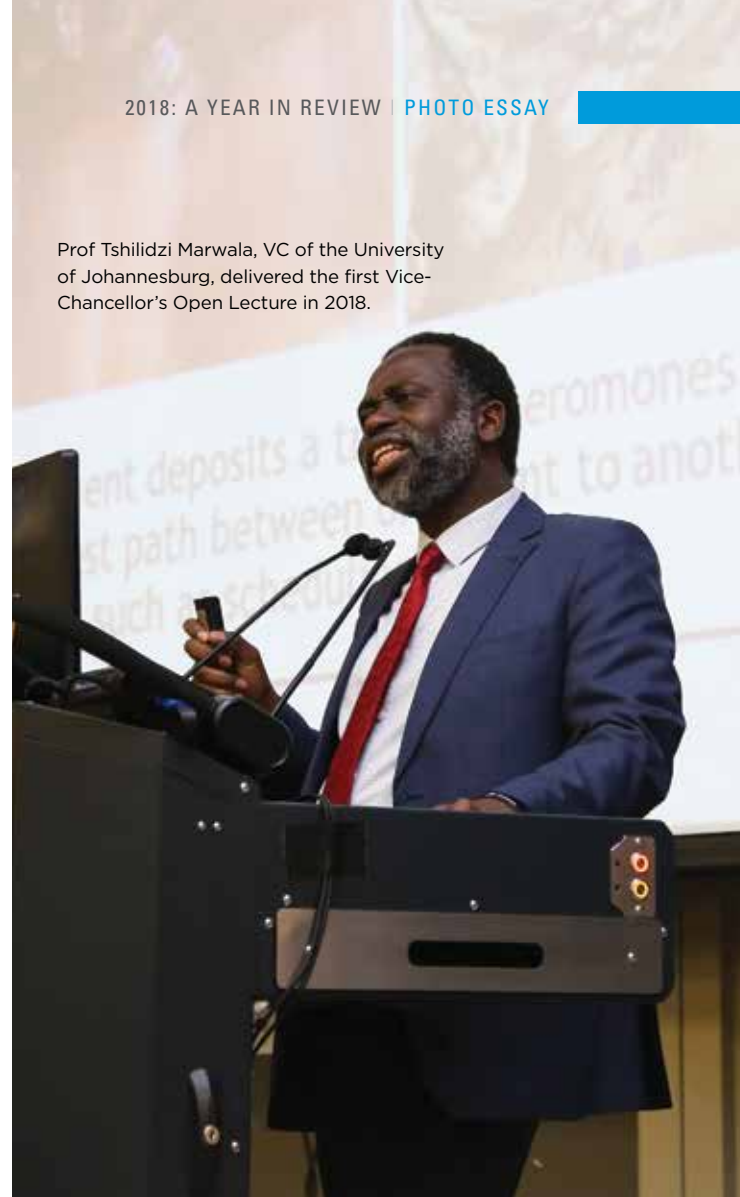
The 68th Summer School, which showcased the research of scholars from South Africa and the world, began with a celebratory display from the Handspring Puppet Company.



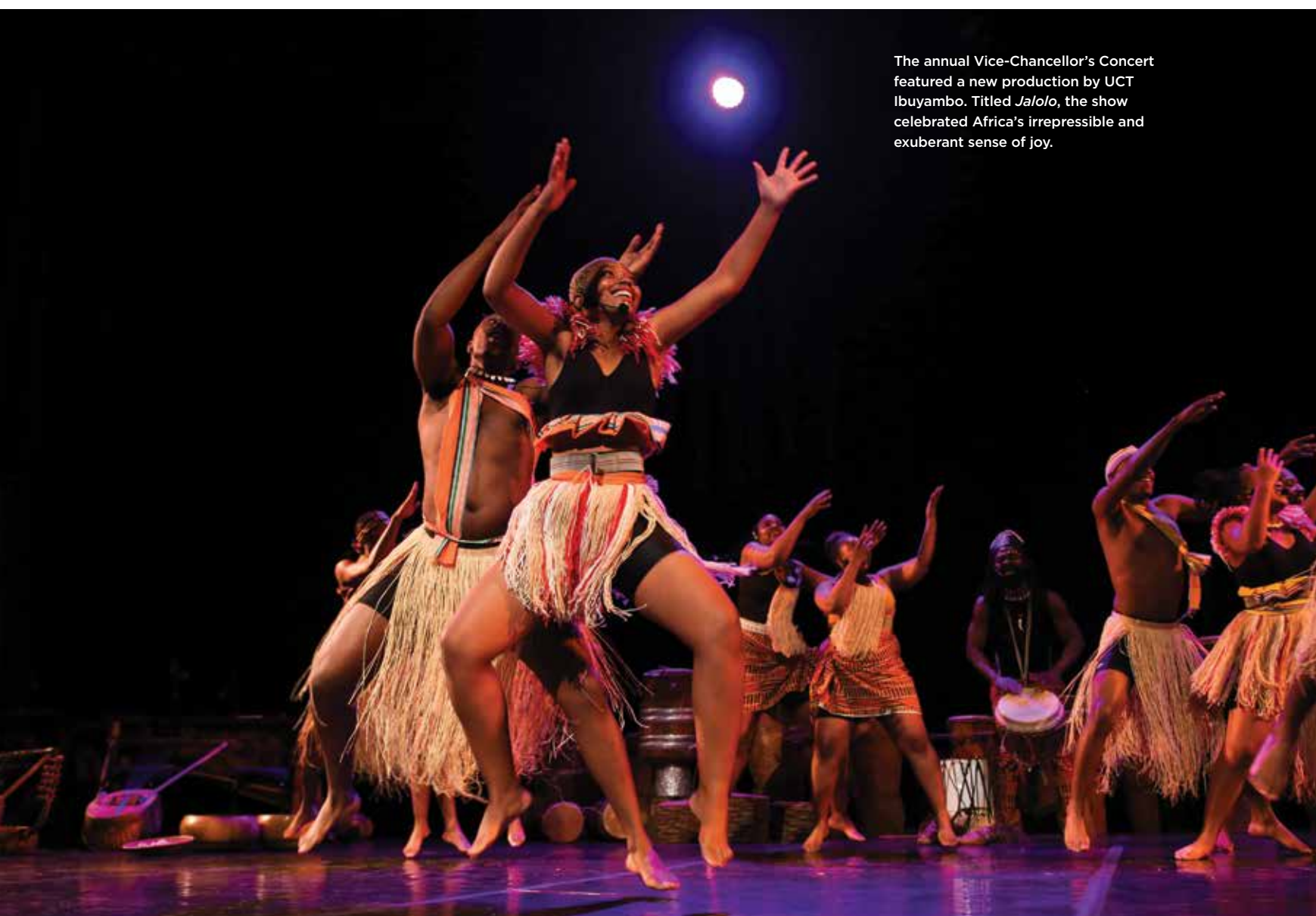




Information Systems and Computer Science students showed off their projects at the School of IT Showcase 2018.



Prof Tshilidzi Marwala, VC of the University of Johannesburg, delivered the first Vice-Chancellor's Open Lecture in 2018.



The annual Vice-Chancellor's Concert featured a new production by UCT Ibuyambo. Titled *Jalolo*, the show celebrated Africa's irrepressible and exuberant sense of joy.



Vice-Chancellor Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng began her term of office on 1 July, having served as Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Internationalisation since January 2017. UCT Chancellor Graça Machel invested Professor Phakeng with her robe of office at a ceremony on 13 December that was held as part of a special graduation in Memorial Hall. The vice-chancellor celebrated her robing in the company of some 100 inspirational and special graduands. Among the guests were vice-chancellors and deputy vice-chancellors from South Africa's universities, as well as other dignitaries, donors and alumni – and a group of Golden Graduates from the Class of 1968. “You have left in my hands an incredible gem, a gift of sorts, with the potential to change lives and change society for the better. It’s my deepest intention and commitment to further your wonderful work to advance UCT to ensure its sustainability for generations to come,” said Phakeng in acknowledgement of the work of UCT’s former vice-chancellors.





A woman with dark hair in a bun, wearing a blue dress and large earrings, is clapping and smiling. She is surrounded by other people in formal attire. A large, ornate chandelier hangs from the ceiling. The background is blurred, showing other guests and warm lighting.

# THE CON FERENCE

At UCT, no achievement is based on the effort of just one person. We work together as a community to ensure the smooth running of our institution; the education and care of our students; the shaping of future leaders; and research into ways to improve how people live.

In November 2018, for the first time in UCT history, we gathered as a campus community to celebrate the outstanding contributions made by academic and professional, administrative support and service staff. But there are reasons to celebrate throughout the year, as students and staff members receive recognition for their remarkable work. I am proud of each one.

**PROFESSOR MAMOKGETHI PHAKENG**  
Vice-Chancellor



# UCT SCIENTISTS SHINE AT NRF AWARDS

UCT's top scientific minds dominated at the 2018 National Research Foundation (NRF) Awards ceremony, accounting for 11 of the 37 academics honoured at the prestigious annual event.

In the Special Awards category, Dr Mohlopheni Marakalala, a senior lecturer in the Faculty of Health Sciences' Department of Pathology, took one of two Emerging Researcher accolades. This award recognises outstanding research excellence by current beneficiaries of Thuthuka grants, a key NRF intervention to support emerging researchers.

Marakalala's research focuses on understanding immune factors associated with the pathological progression of tuberculosis (TB), with a view to developing new therapies to augment current treatment protocols.

In her nomination, Vice-Chancellor Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng said Marakalala aimed to increase educational opportunities in Africa to help address local challenges. He also intended boosting research capacity on the continent by training MSc and PhD students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The Hamilton Naki Award also went to UCT, with Associate Professor Edmund February, from the Department of Biological Sciences in the Faculty of Science, being honoured for "achieving world-class research performance despite considerable challenges".

Endorsing February's nomination, Phakeng said he had overcome significant

difficulties in his life to rise through the academic ranks and become an international leader in the field of plant ecology.

"His research record is impressive by any standards, but is astounding given that he did not get to complete his PhD until the age of 42, mainly because his early attempts to gain tertiary education were scuppered due to his involvement in the 1976 student uprisings," she wrote.

He also faced further difficulties due to poor mathematics education during high school, and lack of access to funding, all of which was compounded by his dyslexia.

"He has produced over 60 publications and graduated 14 MScs and four PhD students," Phakeng added.

## P RATINGS

P ratings go to upcoming young researchers who are considered potential future leaders in their fields internationally. Three went to UCT scientists at this year's event:

- Dr Sarah Fawcett (Department of Oceanography). Her primary research field is earth and marine sciences, with a special interest in the ocean's biogeochemical cycles.
- Dr Geoffrey Howarth (Department of Geological Sciences). An ingenious petrologist, his interest lies in the

evolution of ancient three-billion-year-old cratonic regions.

- Associate Professor Alistair Price (Department of Private Law). His research focuses on how human rights have the potential to influence private law in profound ways.

## A RATINGS

A ratings, which demonstrate unequivocal support by their peers for scientists as leading international scholars in their fields of expertise, and for their high quality and impact of recent research outputs, were awarded to:

- Professor Kelly Chibale (Department of Chemistry)
- Professor Keertan Dheda (Department of Medicine)
- Professor George Ekama (Department of Civil Engineering)
- Professor Hans-Peter Kunzi (Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics)
- Professor Edward Rybicki (Department of Molecular and Cell Biology)
- Professor Heather Zar (Department of Paediatrics and Child Health).

NRF chief executive Dr Molapo Qhobela said, "These are men and women whose work is helping transform South Africa into a knowledge-intensive society where all derive equitable benefit from science and technology."

"THESE ARE MEN AND WOMEN WHOSE WORK IS HELPING TRANSFORM SOUTH AFRICA INTO A KNOWLEDGE-INTENSIVE SOCIETY WHERE ALL DERIVE EQUITABLE BENEFIT FROM SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY."

- NRF CHIEF EXECUTIVE, DR MOLAPO QHOBELA





# IMPROVING AND SAVING LIVES

Professor Heather Zar is the recipient of the 2017 Alan Pifer Award – presented annually by UCT's vice-chancellor in recognition of outstanding socially responsive research.

Over the past 20 years, Zar has created new strategies to address key childhood illnesses and has helped improve and save the lives of thousands of children through research and innovation in child health.

She is chair of the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health at the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital and director of the South African Medical Research Council's Child and Adolescent Lung Health Unit.

As a paediatric pulmonologist, her focus is on the respiratory illnesses that cause death among children – pneumonia, tuberculosis (TB) and asthma.

Although these diseases are treatable, lack of knowledge, under-diagnosis and insufficient medical resources pose a challenge throughout Africa.

## PRACTICAL AND COST-EFFECTIVE APPROACH

Zar has been at the helm of developing accessible and cost-effective innovations, including better strategies to diagnose TB and pneumonia, and applying molecular tests for accurate diagnosis. This work has changed the approach to diagnosing childhood TB globally and has been

integrated into World Health Organization guidelines.

She and her team have also developed an easy-to-use, affordable spacer made from a plastic bottle to help deliver inhaled asthma medication.

Underpinning Zar's research and innovation is a strong commitment to capacity building and developing the next generation of African leaders in child health. Her advice for young researchers? "Find something that you're passionate about and pursue it. Work in a team – collaboration is key – and find a good mentor."

## UNESCO PHD FELLOWSHIP FOR UCT STUDENT

University of Cape Town student Lerato Hlaka is among 14 exceptional young female African scientists to be honoured with a L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science doctoral fellowship, awarded at an event in Nairobi, Kenya on 6 December.

Hlaka's research, conducted in the Department of Pathology in the Division of Immunology, is focused on identifying potential drug targets for pathogen and host-directed therapy for tuberculosis (TB).

"The world needs science, and science needs women: Nowhere is this more clearly illustrated than in African countries, which face significant challenges including climate change, access to energy or food security," said L'Oréal Foundation executive vice-president Alexandra Palt.

"Science and technology are key to addressing these challenges, and this will not be possible without women. Their talents and perspectives enrich relevant research."

Hlaka, in collaboration with scientists from the universities of Strathclyde and Huddersfield in the United Kingdom, is working to develop a novel inhalable drug formulation for the treatment of TB.

She said the high incidence of TB in South Africa, especially of drug-resistant TB, drove an urgent need for the development of new, effective drugs.

Hlaka was also named as one of the Mail & Guardian 200 Young South Africans in 2017, and received second prize in the Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine (IDM) postgraduate students' publication awards for her first co-authored publication in the *Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy*.



## UCT BOOK AWARD FOR CLASSICS SCHOLAR

Professor David Wardle, former director of the School of Languages and Literatures and acting dean of Humanities, won the 2018 UCT Book Award for *Suetonius: Life of Augustus*.



The annual award recognises outstanding works by UCT staff and is open to published works in any category.

This is Wardle's third volume in Oxford University Press's prestigious Clarendon Ancient History Series.

The work has been described as a "comprehensive, historical, historiographical and literary commentary in English on the biography of Rome's first

emperor, Augustus, written in the second century AD".

Gaius Suetonius Tranquillus was a biographer and scholar who rose from relative obscurity in modern-day Algeria to serve at the head of the Roman civil service. He used his knowledge of the job of an emperor to create an evaluative framework, which he used for the first biographies of Rome's emperors.

According to Suetonius there were many signs and omens that Augustus was destined for not just great things, but also divinity – a god-emperor reflecting the ancient manifestations of 'ruler cult'.

Wardle's book is the first scholarly commentary to be accessible to readers without any knowledge of Latin or Greek through its use of English lemmata, while the new translation remains faithful to the original Latin.

## TRIO OF CREATIVE WORKS AWARDS

Three Creative Works Awards were presented at the year-end graduation ceremonies, to Professor Hendrik Hofmeyr, Associate Professor Svea Josephy and Dr Sara Matchett.



Prof Hendrik Hofmeyr

Hofmeyr, head of composition at the South African College of Music, was honoured for his work *Second Symphony – The Element*, his first purely orchestral symphony, which premiered in 2017.

Usually regarded as the apex of instrumental writing in any composer's oeuvre, Hofmeyr's composition was the first major symphony to emerge in South Africa in over 30 years.

It explores the Ancient Greek notion that everything in the universe is constituted of four basic elements: air, earth, water and fire. As in mediaeval metaphysics, the elements are also



Assoc Prof Svea Josephy

treated as symbols of human conditions.

Josephy, a senior lecturer in fine arts (photography) at the Michaelis School of Fine Art, won her award for her solo exhibition, *Satellite Cities*, held in 2016 at the Wits Art Museum and co-hosted by the Wits City Institute.

The exhibition included an impressive body of photographs accompanied by text panels and a catalogue. Josephy investigated parallels in the naming of "twin towns" in South Africa and other parts of the world, pairing images of different locations that share the same name, for instance, Delft in Cape Town



Dr Sara Matchett

and Delft in The Netherlands.

Based at the Centre for Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies, Matchett's award-winning theatre production *Womb of Fire* addressed how centuries of violence in South Africa continue to play out on women's bodies.

Set against an episode from the Indian epic *The Mahabharata*, the play interweaves personal narrative and contemporary realities with the lives of two women – the first female bandit slave Grote Katrijn van Pulicat and Zara, a Khoekhoen servant woman from the founding years of the Cape Colony.

PHOTO Candice van Litsenborgh





## NSTF AWARD FOR HARALD WINKLER

Professor Harald Winkler, of the Energy Research Centre in the Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment, won the 2018 NSTF-South32 Special Annual Theme Award: Sustainable Energy for All.

The National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) in partnership with South32 annually honours excellence in science, engineering, technology and innovation in South Africa. The winners were announced at a gala dinner on 28 June, and this award was made in recognition of the United Nations International Decade of Sustainable Energy for All.

Reducing energy poverty, while at the same time making a just transition to a low-carbon energy economy, is a key challenge of the 21st century. Over the past 10 years, Winkler's research has contributed information needed for this transition, and informed energy and climate policy at both the national and international level.

It focuses on energy and the environment, particularly climate change and the economics of mitigation in the context of sustainable development, with a strong focus on poverty and development.

Winkler has developed and implemented a research agenda demonstrating that the costs of a transition to low-carbon energy need not be borne by poor households and communities. He has published extensively on sustainable energy for all and, based on his research, has advised on environmental and climate perspectives in respect of the Department of Energy's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) for South Africa. On receiving the award, Winkler said: "This does inspire me to continue thinking and co-producing knowledge on how we reduce poverty, inequality and greenhouse gas emissions."

## FOUR NEW FELLOWS FOR UCT

The University of Cape Town's annual College of Fellows dinner on 10 October saw citations for four new fellows and six Young Researcher Awards.

UCT's Council established the fellowships for members of permanent academic staff in recognition of original, distinguished academic work that merits special recognition. "In my culture we have the concept of elders," said Vice-Chancellor Mamokgethi Phakeng, speaking at the event. "These are people who have walked the road ahead of us ... In chaos, they are the voice of reason, and in wars and battles, they bring peace."

"It is for this reason that elders have a special place in our culture. ... I believe the College of Fellows should be the elders of the university. This university needs you." Four permanent UCT academics were awarded a Fellowship:

- Professor Aubrey Mainza (Department of Chemical Engineering – deputy director and head of Communitation and Classification Research in the Centre for Minerals Research)
- Professor Edgar Pieterse (School of Architecture, Planning and Geomatics – director of the African Centre for Cities, holder of the SARChI Chair in Urban Policy)

- Professor Tania Douglas (Division of Biomedical Engineering – director of the Medical Imaging Research Unit and holder of the SARChI Chair in Biomedical Engineering and Innovation)
- Professor Michael Meadows (Department of Environmental and Geographical Sciences – chair of the Science Faculty Ethics Committee and the University Sports Council).

College of Fellows Young Researcher Awards went to:

- Dr Asanda Benya (Department of Sociology)
- Dr Sarah Fawcett (Department of Oceanography)
- Dr Nomusa Makhubu (Michaelis School of Fine Art)
- Dr Brendan Maughan-Brown (School of Economics)
- Associate Professor Jill Olivier (Division of Health Policy and Systems)
- Associate Professor Alistair Price (Department of Private Law).



# TWO NEW SARCHI CHAIRS FOR UCT

The South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI) was designed to significantly expand the scientific research base of South Africa in order to support the implementation of the national research and development policies. Since its inception, 233 SARChI chairs have been awarded. Of these, 42 are held by UCT researchers, including two new awardees in 2018.

## ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR INES MEYER

The newly established SARChI Chair in Creation of Decent Work and Sustainable Livelihood has been awarded to organisational psychologist Associate Professor Ines Meyer, whose work takes a 'humanomics' view of a living wage in society.

One of three holders of a SARChI Chair in the Faculty of Commerce, Meyer's new position will support the National Development Plan Priority Areas.

Her recent research has explored the living wage as a means of fulfilling United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, and the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Decent Work Agenda.

Plainly put, decent work is generally accepted as work which respects human dignity, secures an adequate livelihood, supports individuals and their families to fully develop their capacities and talents, and is a unifying interest shared globally.

## DETERMINANTS OF 'DECENT LIFE'

What is novel about the research, said Meyer, is the underlying assumption, first, that it is insufficient to determine wage levels based on economic factors alone, without consideration of psychological variables; and second, that a wage level allowing for a decent life can be determined using such psychological indicators.

"The research is thus embedded in the broader area of seeking innovative ways in which to see work, the purpose of work,

and the role of work, employers and employees within society," she said in her proposal for the chair.

"In this way it aligns directly with the National Development Plan's priority area Creation of Decent Work and Sustainable Livelihood, and the Medium-Term Strategic Framework's outcome Sustainable Human Settlements and Improved Quality of Households."

## PROFESSOR CAROLINE NCUBE

Ncube was awarded the SARChI Chair in Intellectual Property, a well-deserved acknowledgement of her contribution to the field of intellectual property law and her focus on the promotion of public interest and innovation. She is the fourth holder of a SARChI chair in the Faculty of Law, joining more than 40 others across UCT.

Ncube came to UCT as a lecturer in 2005 after completing her Master of Laws at the University of Cambridge, teaching at two other universities and practising briefly as an attorney. While carrying a full teaching load and raising two young sons, Ncube also graduated with her PhD from UCT in 2011.

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY TO IMPROVE LIVES

Throughout these academic pursuits, Ncube refined her interest in the way that intellectual property law can positively impact access to education, health and economic opportunities.


"This research will – among other things – look at, firstly, how copyright law can be enhanced to enable better access to educational resources," Ncube explained. "Secondly, how patent law can be improved to better facilitate access to medicines.

"Thirdly, how copyright and other intellectual property laws can better serve cultural industries so that people in the sector can generate better economic return from their activities."

She hopes that her own research, as well as all research done under her supervision, will continue to be a catalyst for creating a legal framework for intellectual property in South Africa that is not only more encouraging of innovation, but also serves the public interest at all times.







When we celebrate UCT's improved global ranking and recognition, we recognise that this is underpinned by cohorts of highly reputed researchers in all disciplines. Our scholars illustrate their outstanding problem-solving talents through innovative research, where the solutions positively impact on our local communities and environment. The ethos that solutions sought to solve African problems have a global impact flows through the field work, the laboratories, the data-gathering surveys and the clinics across campus. We show here with pride UCT's rich voice, which brings a sophisticated African perspective to global conversations and the multitude of collaborations UCT researchers have with like-minded curious investigators from every corner of the globe.

**PROFESSOR KEVIN NAIDOO**

**Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Internationalisation**

# THE FUTURE OF RESEARCH



# RESEARCH AND INNOVATION 2018

**11 001**  
postgraduates

**2 122**  
PhDs

**5 685**  
master's

**1 528**  
honours

**1 666**  
PG dips

**2 363** RESEARCH  
CONTRACTS PROCESSED

**125** ACTIVE INVENTIONS

**23** SPIN-OFF COMPANIES  
LAUNCHED IN 11 YEARS



**UCT HOLDS EQUITY IN  
10 SPIN-OFF COMPANIES:**

R100 million of equity in spin-off companies

R39.6 million in intellectual property  
commercialisation revenue (since 2001)

**44%** of the  
academics at UCT  
are female.

**95%** of UCT  
postdocs  
who received awards  
in 2017 were women.

**58%** of UCT's  
Emerging  
Researcher  
Programme  
members  
are women.

**8** out of 16 NRF  
P-rated scholars  
in South Africa are at  
UCT. Five of the eight  
are women, out of  
six in the country.

## RANKINGS

**TIMES HIGHER  
EDUCATION**  
**1st in Africa,**  
156th in the world

**1st in Africa,**  
9th in the world in the  
Emerging Economies  
University Ranking

**Top 100 in  
the world**  
in clinical, pre-clinical  
and health (72nd),  
law (77th), social  
sciences (89th) and  
education (95th) in  
the subject rankings

**60th** among  
the world's most  
international  
universities

**QUACQUARELLI  
SYMONDS**  
**1st in Africa,**  
200th in the world

**1st in Africa**  
for graduate  
employability,  
18th in the world  
for graduate  
employment (in  
work after one year)

**Top 50 in  
the world**  
in three subjects:  
development studies  
(11th), sports-related  
subjects (37th) and  
geography (49th)

**CENTRE FOR  
WORLD UNIVERSITY  
RANKINGS**  
**1st in Africa,**  
223rd in the world

**FINANCIAL TIMES**  
The Graduate School  
of Business (GSB)  
ranked 67th among the  
world's top customised  
programmes. The  
GSB has retained its  
place in the top 100  
business schools in the  
world for the eighth  
consecutive year.

**US NEWS  
BEST GLOBAL  
UNIVERSITIES  
RANKINGS**  
**1st in Africa,**  
114th in the world

**Top 50** in the  
subject rankings:  
immunology (49th)

**Top 100** in the  
subject rankings:  
microbiology (63rd),  
social sciences and  
public health (71st),  
clinical medicine (91st)

"Identifying, encouraging and nurturing the next generation of researchers is, of course, critical to UCT, our country and our continent, and UCT has been working hard on getting this right – starting with our postgraduates."

**Professor Michael Kyobe,  
Acting DVC: Research  
and Internationalisation**



# AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

**LEADING TUBERCULOSIS RESEARCHER PROFESSOR KEERTAN DHEDA**, head of the Division of Pulmonology, was awarded the 2018 Scientific Leadership prize by the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP).

**PROFESSOR DAYA REDDY** was elected as the first president of the newly formed International Science Council, a new global organisation representing more than 180 scientific bodies across the globe.

**UCT CHAIR OF ASTRONOMY PROFESSOR RENEE KRAAN-KORTEWEG** won the Minister's Special Award in the field of astronomy at the South African Women in Science Awards (SAWISA) 2018.

**UCT VACCINOLOGY RESEARCH CHAIR PROFESSOR ANNA-LISE WILLIAMSON**, internationally recognised for her research on vaccinology and human papillomavirus (HPV) in Africa, was awarded a gold medal at the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) Scientific Merit Awards.

**THE CENTRE FOR AUTISM RESEARCH IN AFRICA (CARA), LED BY PROFESSOR PETRUS DE VRIES**, was awarded the inaugural Cultural Diversity Research

Award by the International Society for Autism Research (INSAR). De Vries was elected as an INSAR Fellow at the same conference.

**PROFESSOR TANIA DOUGLAS, DIRECTOR OF UCT'S MEDICAL IMAGING RESEARCH UNIT** in the Division of Biomedical Engineering, was included on the 30 Quartz Africa Innovators list for 2018.

**PROFESSOR MARK NEW, DIRECTOR OF UCT'S AFRICAN CLIMATE AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (ACDI)** and holder of the AXA Research Fund Chair in African Climate Risk, was presented with the Piers Sellers Prize for his global contributions in leading climate research.

**PROFESSOR MARK SOLMS** was awarded the prestigious Harry Oppenheimer Fellowship Award, which recognises leading scholars with sustained records of outstanding research and intellectual achievement at the highest level.

**PROFESSORS KELLY CHIBALE, VIRNA LEANER AND KEVIN NAIDOO** were inaugurated as Members of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf). ASSAf also awarded Professor Linda-Gail Bekker an ASSAf Science-for-Society Gold Medal.

## LEADING SCHOLARS

**19%** of the country's SARCHI (South African Research Chairs Initiative) chairs have been awarded to UCT researchers.

**42** TOTAL NUMBER OF SARCHI CHAIRS

**3 COMMERCE**  
**7 EBE**  
**11 HEALTH SCIENCES**  
**4 HUMANITIES**  
**4 LAW**  
**13 SCIENCE**

**42** (33%) of South Africa's NRF A-rated researchers, who are considered international leaders in their field, call UCT home.

UCT NRF-rated scholars as at 31 December 2018

**541** TOTAL NUMBER OF RATED RESEARCHERS

**9 CHED**  
**45 COMMERCE**  
**65 EBE**  
**140 HEALTH SCIENCES**  
**88 HUMANITIES**  
**22 LAW**  
**172 SCIENCE**

Total as per rating categories as at 31 Dec 2018

**541** TOTAL NUMBER OF RATED RESEARCHERS

	A	B	C	P	Y
Count	42	169	239	8	83

**A rated** – leading international researchers  
**B rated** – internationally acclaimed researchers  
**C rated** – established researchers  
**P rated** – prestigious awards  
**Y rated** – promising young researchers

## NEW P RATINGS

**Dr Sarah Fawcett**  
(Department of Oceanography)

**Dr Geoffrey Howarth**  
(Department of Geological Sciences)

**Associate Professor Alistair Price**  
(Department of Private Law)

UCT WAS THE FIRST AFRICAN UNIVERSITY TO JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES (IARU)

### CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

UCT hosts two African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) centres of excellence, each addressing a research theme aligned to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The ARUA Centre of Excellence in Climate and Development hosted by UCT within the African Climate and Development Initiative (ACDI) conducts innovative interdisciplinary research to strengthen Africa's voice in the climate-change discussion.

The African Centre of Excellence for Inequalities Research (ACEIR), under the banner of ARUA, was launched in May 2018 to consolidate and magnify the efforts of African universities as they relate to poverty and inequalities research.

\*These figures were unaudited at the time of going to print and may be subject to change.



# A NEW WINDOW ON THE UNIVERSE

UCT is part of a consortium that in May 2018 launched the fully customised 0.65 m MeerLICHT optical telescope, which will be paired with the MeerKAT radio array when it starts its science operations. Together, MeerLICHT and MeerKAT will provide a new and improved window on the universe.

About seven years ago, Professor Patrick Woudt and a colleague discussed how best they could follow up on discoveries picked up in data from radio telescopes. The answer was to build their own optical telescope fully dedicated to doing that, even though pairing an optical telescope to a radio array was an entirely novel concept.

Woudt applied to purchase the core piece of technology, the detector, through UCT, prompting his partners from Radboud University Nijmegen in the Netherlands to commit to funding the design and construction of the telescope.

The MeerLICHT prototype was built in the Netherlands and brought over to South Africa in July 2017. The telescope is housed at the South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO) at Sutherland.

Designing a new telescope is a costly exercise. In the end, the project was championed by seven institutions: namely UCT, the SAAO, Radboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research, and the universities of Amsterdam, Oxford and Manchester.

MeerLICHT, meaning 'more light', is distinct for a number of reasons.

The telescope has an enormous field of view at 10 500 by 10 500 pixels, so it is able to focus on, and capture data from, a larger portion of the southern sky. The telescope also outputs this data faster than ever before, allowing researchers to produce a rapid time sequence of the night sky.

"When we study astronomy ... we haven't really looked at things that vary very rapidly," said Woudt.

It is these rapidly varying phenomena that Woudt and his UCT colleagues are interested in.

"There are some detectors that can measure a millisecond of variability, but never over such a vast area," he said.

"One of the things that's very exciting in the radio observations - people have discovered things called fast radio bursts. These are things that only last 10 milliseconds ... and they don't recur."

Researchers will now have a greater chance of capturing these bursts and investigating them further using data from the optical telescope.

"We know they are at large distances, but we don't know exactly how and where. So, by linking this [optical] telescope to the radio, we can try to understand these very fast time phenomena."

We are in an era of astronomy where we are dealing with very large data volumes, explained Woudt.

"About five or six years from now, there will be an optical telescope that will map the entire southern sky every two days ... So, how do you deal with that information flow? What are the important objects in there? What do you select for follow-ups?"

"This project, although on a much smaller scale, will start to address some of those questions."

Given UCT's expertise in dealing with data flow, the institution's key role in MeerLICHT is in managing its influx. Data will stream into the Inter-university Institute for Data Intensive Astronomy (IDIA), at UCT, for analysis.

The team is investigating using algorithms and machine learning to help sift through this deluge of information.



"WE ARE IN AN ERA OF ASTRONOMY WHERE WE ARE DEALING WITH VERY LARGE DATA VOLUMES."







# UPGRADING THE LARGEST EXPERIMENT ON EARTH

Photo: Anna Pantella, CERN

From December 2018 until early 2021, CERN's Large Hadron Collider (LHC) will be shut down. After nearly five years of accelerating particles to almost the speed of light, the facility needs maintenance.

This will also be a time to upgrade the experiments on the LHC circuit. South African scientists, including from UCT, will be among those developing the new hardware, installing it and testing it.

When particles inside the LHC crash at almost the speed of light, they create particle debris that flies in all directions, which are recorded by detectors – two of which are ALICE and ATLAS. The upgrades to the ALICE experiment will take a massive collaborative effort by physicists from all over the world.

South African institutions are

shouldering responsibility for three areas of the upgrade to ALICE: readout electronics for the muon identification detector, data processing for the transition radiation detector, and low-voltage power supply and distribution for the muon tracking detector.

UCT's responsibilities lie mostly with data processing for the transition radiation detector and in the readout electronics upgrade.

On completion of the LHC's upgrade, the rate of collisions will increase fivefold. The new system will be able to handle

100 times more data – about three terabytes per second – which means the software for processing the data will have to be rebuilt as well.

Dr Tom Dietel, a CERN collaborator from UCT's Department of Physics, sees the potential for growth in the steep learning curve lying ahead for SA-CERN and UCT.

"What makes this opportunity so important is the fact that we get to tap into a huge network of expertise. CERN is an amazing environment to work in in every respect."

## THREE MINUTE THESIS DOUBLE WIN

As a doctoral candidate in UCT's Department of Civil Engineering, Rene Nsanzubuhoro developed a novel device that can be used to assess the extent of leaks in sections of pipeline systems, without the need for costly and invasive detection efforts.

His ability to concisely explain his research led to him winning first place and the People's Choice Award in the national Three Minute Thesis, or 3MT, competition in Bloemfontein in October 2018. In the competition, PhD candidates are given

just three minutes to explain their thesis to the public.

"Winning both was a really pleasant surprise," said Nsanzubuhoro. "I believe in what I do and believe in how important it is, and I'm glad I was able to win by sharing my passion."

His presentation, titled "Fighting leakage one pipe at a time", summarises his work on a device designed to assess the condition of pipelines, allowing people to detect leaks, identify the type of leak, and assess the volume of water being lost.

In Cape Town, where water scarcity is still front of mind, it is timely research.

The device has the potential to impact infrastructure throughout South Africa. Teams of labourers can be trained to use it, finding and reporting the leaks and their properties. The information collected could help determine the best time to repair, refurbish or replace a pipeline.

"My hope is that this work can help ... all stakeholders in the industry to manage water infrastructure better and reduce water that is lost through leakage."



## NEW HERMIT CRAB SPECIES IN 3D

3D X-ray micro-computed tomography has helped UCT researchers describe a new hermit crab species, *Pagurus fraserorum*, found in the rocky subtidal reefs off the coast of KwaZulu-Natal.

The study by marine taxonomist Dr Jannes Landschoff (Department of Biological Sciences) is the first description of a hermit crab in which most of the taxonomic details have been illustrated using 3D volume-rendered illustrations, with added line drawings to show high-resolution surface structures.

The technique gives taxonomists a new tool to “dissect” and study rare or delicate specimens on their computer screens, with or without museum or natural history collections and artists’ replicas.

The paper was published in *PLOS One* with co-authors UCT Emeritus Professor Charles Griffiths; Tomoyuki Komai of the Natural History Museum and Institute in Japan; Anton du Plessis of the Central Analytical Facility, Stellenbosch University; and Gavin Gouws of the South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity.

The new crab species has been named after Mike and Valda Fraser and their son Allan, who are well known in the dive community and authors of several reef guides.

The new species, pinkish-maroon and cream in colour, was found among the rocky reefs off Pumula and Hibberdene near Port Shepstone in KZN. It was known previously only from a photographic record taken at Veitch’s Pier in Durban.

It is the sixth species of *Pagurus* known in South Africa and is closely related to similar Indo-Pacific and Taiwanese crabs. However, with its characteristic shape, spines and hairs on the pincers and the walking legs, *Pagurus fraserorum* is not easily mistaken for any other, said Landschoff.



## A NEW TIMELINE FOR HUMAN EVOLUTION

New research from an international team of scientists led by Dr Robyn Pickering, an isotope geochemist at UCT, is the first to provide a timeline for fossils found in the Cradle of Humankind – the world’s richest site for fossils of our human ancestors.

The research, published in the journal *Nature*, addresses assumptions that the fossil-rich caves of the Cradle could not be related to one another chronologically.

“Unlike previous dating work ... we are providing direct ages for eight caves and a model to explain the age of all the fossils from the entire region,” said Pickering.

Using uranium-lead dating, the research team analysed 28 layers of flowstone, a type of rock that forms when water drips into a cave. The results revealed that the fossils in the caves date to six narrow windows of time between 3.2 million and 1.3 million years ago.

“Now we can link together the findings from separate caves and create a better picture of evolutionary history in southern Africa.”

Up until now, scientists had considered it impossible to date the South African fossil record.

“The flowstones in the caves can act almost like the volcanic layers of East Africa, forming in different caves at the same time, allowing us to directly relate their sequences and fossils into a regional sequence,” said Professor Andy Herries, a co-author of the study from La Trobe University in Australia.

“This is the most important advance [to our understanding of human evolution] to be made since the fossils themselves were discovered,” said Professor Bernard Wood of the Center for the Advanced Study of Human Paleobiology in the United States.



Photo: Jannes Landschoff



# BOTTLING ATHLETIC EXCELLENCE

PhD candidate Shaun Sutehall is working with elite athletes to develop Swiss company Maurten's new "hydrogel" drink, which has the potential to enhance sporting performance.

Sutehall has already seen success among elite marathon runners in East Africa who have taken the drink during big races. He has high hopes that these results can be expanded to other athletes.

"I believe this drink is a big success with the elite marathoners as many of them suffer from stomach problems while running. This drink now allows them to consume carbohydrate without these negative feelings."

Initially tested on elite athletes training in Ethiopia, the drink was found to be very well tolerated at carbohydrate concentrations much higher than would

normally be possible to ingest while running.

It was subsequently used in competition in the Berlin Marathon in 2016 by Ethiopian Olympic athlete Kenenisa Bekele, who narrowly missed the (then) world record. More recently, Maurten was used by Kenyan runner Eliud Kipchoge when he broke the world marathon record in 2018.

Sutehall, who is studying for his MSc/ PhD under the co-supervision of UCT's Professor Andrew Bosch and Professor Yannis Pitsiladis of the University of Brighton in the UK, has been investigating

the gastric emptying characteristics of the drink, as well as the rate at which the carbohydrate is used by the muscles.

He presented his initial findings at the 35th International Federation of Sports Medicine (FIMS) World Congress of Sports Medicine held in Rio de Janeiro.

Sutehall also works with the Sub2hrs Project, which is dedicated, through science, to promoting the achievement of a sub-two-hour marathon within five years. "The mix of academic research and applied work with elite athletes is a great experience," he said.

## EASY SQUEEZY

A collaboration between biomedical engineers and a clinician at UCT has led to the design of an assistant device for metered-dose asthma inhalers that will improve ease of use for children and the elderly.

Metered-dose inhalers are commonly prescribed for asthma, but they are not ideal for patients who are not strong enough to use them correctly. Aptly named the Easy Squeezy, the new device reduces the force required to activate the pump.

Head of the Division of Asthma and Allergy at the Red Cross Children's Hospital in Cape Town Dr Michael Levin wondered if pressing the pumps could be made easier. He approached Professor Sudesh Sivasu, head of the Medical Devices Lab in UCT's Department of Biomedical Engineering, with his idea.

Sivasu identified two master's students to take on the project. Giancarlo Beukes and Gokul Nair were tasked with solving three design challenges: reducing the force required to activate the pump, incorporating an adjustable dosage counter, and combating the stigma attached to using these devices, especially among children.

They developed a sleeve that is easily slipped over a regular inhaler. With its 'bunny-ear' design, the device allows children and elderly patients to activate the pump easily using their whole hand.

The dosage counter problem was solved by designing a ratchet-type system.

"Stats show that 42% of kids don't want to carry their device with them ... So, we've added cartoon characters," said Nair.

The Easy Squeezy design has reached proof of concept and is being refined. The next step is to conduct a trial that validates use of the device.

"We'd like to first do market research at Red Cross Children's Hospital ... and grow it from there," said Beukes.







# BIO-BRICKS FROM URINE

A master's student in civil engineering, Suzanne Lambert, unveiled the world's first bio-brick grown from human urine, signalling an innovative paradigm shift in waste recovery.

The bio-bricks are created through a natural process called microbial carbonate precipitation. It's not unlike the way seashells are formed, said Lambert's supervisor Dr Dyllon Randall, a senior lecturer in water quality engineering.

In this case, loose sand is colonised with bacteria that produce urease. An enzyme, the urease breaks down the urea in urine while producing calcium carbonate through a complex chemical reaction. This cements the sand into any shape, whether it's a solid column, or now, for the first time, a rectangular building brick.

Lambert and civil engineering honours student Vukheta Mukhari have been hard at work in the laboratory testing various bio-brick shapes and tensile strengths to produce an innovative building material. The development is also good news for the environment and global warming as bio-bricks are made in moulds at room temperature. (Regular bricks are kiln-fired at temperatures around 1 400°C and produce vast quantities of carbon dioxide.)

"The longer you allow the little bacteria to make the cement, the stronger the

product is going to be. We can optimise that process," said Randall.

## FOUNDATIONAL WORK

The concept of using urea to grow bricks was tested in the United States some years back using synthetic solutions, but Lambert's brick uses real human urine for the first time, with significant consequences for waste recycling and upcycling. Her work builds on foundational research by Jules Henze, a Swiss student who spent four months working with Randall on this concept in 2017.

"It's what I love about research. You build on the foundations of other work," said Randall.

Chemically speaking, urine is liquid gold, according to Randall. It accounts for less than 1% of domestic waste water (by volume) but contains 80% of the nitrogen, 56% of the phosphorus and 63% of the potassium of this waste water.

Some 97% of the phosphorus present in the urine can be converted into calcium phosphate, the key ingredient in fertilisers that underpin commercial farming

worldwide. This is significant because the world's natural phosphate reserves are running dry.

## ZERO WASTE

The fertilisers are produced as part of the phased process used to produce the bio-bricks.

First, urine is collected in novel fertiliser-producing urinals and used to make a solid fertiliser. The remaining liquid is then used in the biological process to grow the bio-bricks.

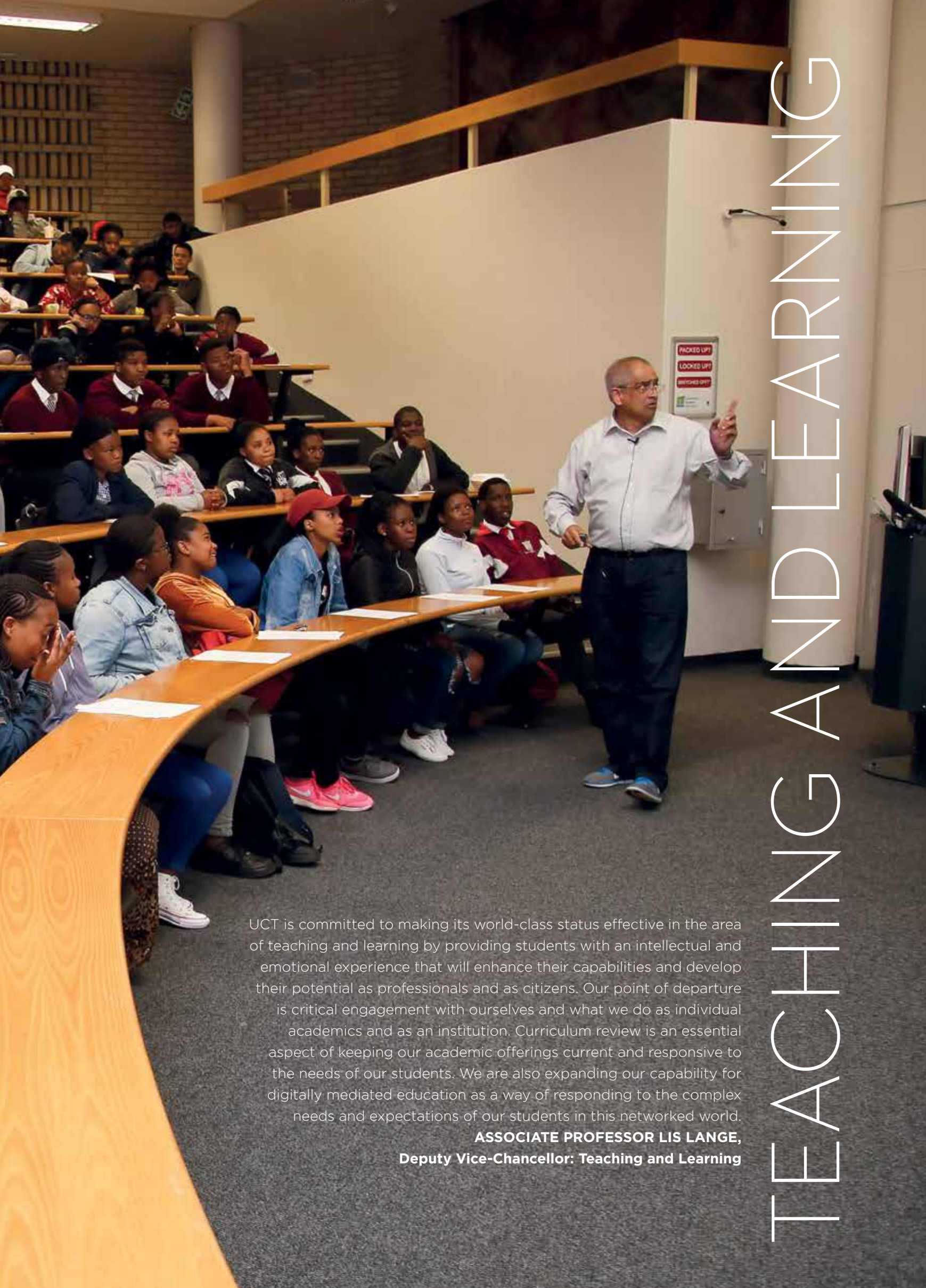
"But in that process, we're only after two components: carbonate ions and the calcium. What we do last is take the remaining liquid product from the bio-brick process and make a second fertiliser," he explained.

The overall scheme would effectively result in zero waste, with the urine completely converted into three useful products.

"No one's looked at it in terms of that entire cycle and the potential to recover multiple valuable products. The next question is how to do that in an optimised way so that profit can be created from urine."



# TEACHING AND LEARNING



UCT is committed to making its world-class status effective in the area of teaching and learning by providing students with an intellectual and emotional experience that will enhance their capabilities and develop their potential as professionals and as citizens. Our point of departure is critical engagement with ourselves and what we do as individual academics and as an institution. Curriculum review is an essential aspect of keeping our academic offerings current and responsive to the needs of our students. We are also expanding our capability for digitally mediated education as a way of responding to the complex needs and expectations of our students in this networked world.

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR LIS LANGE,**  
**Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching and Learning**



# ADOPTING 'PEDAGOGIES OF PRESENCE'

## UCT Teaching & Learning Conference



Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Teaching and Learning Associate Professor Lis Lange called on the university community to build a collective sense and common purpose around student success and experience at UCT.

Lange was speaking at the opening of the 2018 Teaching and Learning Conference on 17 July.

At the heart of the change needed in the university's teaching and learning approach, she said, is what Cameroonian philosopher, political theorist and public intellectual Achille Mbembe referred to as "pedagogies of presence", a "set of mental dispositions" needed to change the status quo.

"The fact that we are the top research university in Africa and figure high up in the world rankings does not make us the top-rated university in teaching and learning," said Lange.

She urged the academic community to harness the critical impetus of the student-led protests under the Rhodes Must Fall (RMF) banner to initiate, at departmental level, curricula reviews that challenge the institutional curriculum.

"And we must accept, once and for all, that learning how to teach is not an optional aspect in the life of an academic.

"Let's shake the complacency of being the top university in the country. Let's ... stretch our notion of excellence to one that is more critical of itself, more encompassing and deeply rooted in the moral imperative of transformation."

Lange took the audience back 20 years to "the Mamdani affair", which remains "one of the dark moments of post-apartheid UCT".

Mahmood Mamdani, renowned Africanist scholar from Makerere in

Uganda, had been invited to UCT to design and lead a foundational semester course in African studies.

"It was clear that what Mamdani was proposing defied UCT's academic conception of Africa and its knowledge."

And now, another call has come for the university to implement a decolonised curriculum that critically examines Africa.

"In 1998 UCT closed ranks against Mamdani; after RMF some academics actually heeded the call for a decolonised curriculum."

This work would require institutional support and the development of a critical mass of committed academics and supportive and active students, Lange added. However, the students' demands in the RMF protests had conflated ontological and epistemological recognition, often reducing the decolonisation of the curriculum to Africanisation.

"As important, urgent and necessary as this is ontologically, the Africanisation of the curriculum ... is epistemologically and politically isolating. ... Instead, I would like

to propose following the Achille Mbembe pedagogy and curriculum of 'presence'.

"This represents an affirmation of the students and their blackness, of their selves, their bodies and their identities, and their intergenerational knowledge and their direct experience of the world.

"This requires a countermovement: the acknowledgement of the identity and the position of those who teach as well as white students in their privilege, but also in their lack ... [A] 'pedagogy of presence' should help all of the university.

"[This] would require the entire university to revisit its notions of student learning and reconsider the way students are taught. This has implications for language of instruction, the modalities of teaching, the notions of assessment and the understanding of the student as an individual and autonomous self.

"At the curricula level, a pedagogy of presence makes possible two important intellectual movements. One is the resizing of European knowledge ... The other is the incorporation of other epistemological traditions ... in the horizon of global knowledge."

"AND WE MUST ACCEPT, ONCE AND FOR ALL, THAT LEARNING HOW TO TEACH IS NOT AN OPTIONAL ASPECT IN THE LIFE OF AN ACADEMIC."



# TEACHING AND LEARNING 2018

**70** teachers from four Western Cape universities came together for UCT's second New Academics' Transitions into Higher Education Regional Colloquium.

**40**

ACADEMICS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE NEW ACADEMIC PRACTITIONERS' PROGRAMME (NAPP). MOST OF THIS COHORT ALSO COMPLETED THE NAPP TEACHING PROJECT, WHICH ADDRESSES TEACHING CHALLENGES.



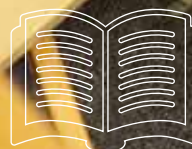
**10 UNIVERSITIES PARTICIPATED IN UCT'S FIRST NEW ACADEMICS TRANSITIONING INTO HIGH EDUCATION PROJECT (NATHEP), WHICH FOCUSED ON ACADEMIC STAFF DEVELOPMENT.**

UCT's new Digital Open Textbook for Development (DOT4D) received 17 proposals. The project continues to track over 30 other instances of open textbooks for development at UCT.

Four new MOOCs (massive open online courses) were launched, bringing the UCT total to 15. UCT MOOCs have attracted over 230 000 enrolments from more than 100 countries.

**TOP 50**

Three UCT MOOCs – *Past and Present*, *What is a Mind?* and *Understanding Clinical Research* – were in Class Central's top 50 courses.



**>75 000 STUDENTS** wrote the National Benchmark Test (NBT) over 881 sessions in 115 venues at UCT, facilitated by the Centre for Educational Testing for Access and Placement (CETAP).

322 individuals, including 254 UCT staff, 61 UCT students and seven colleagues from associated institutions attended the 2018 Teaching and Learning Conference, with 59 presentations to choose from.

Global file-sharing platform WeTransfer named the Hasso Plattner School of Design Thinking (the d-school) as one of its pioneers – one of just eight schools globally to receive this accolade.



## SUPPORTING SCIENCE TEACHERS

c\*hemRoots, an initiative of Catalysis c\*change in the Department of Chemical Engineering, is catalysing change in South African high schools by distributing 25 000 resource kits to teachers through a series of training workshops over the next three years.

The plastic box holds all the necessary chemicals, equipment and instructions to create dozens of chemistry practicals on acids and bases for grades 8 to 12. Future kits will take on new topics drawn from the physical sciences curriculum.

"We had to ensure that it was not only cost effective and durable, but also that it contains materials that are readily available at a supermarket," explained Dr René Toerien, the lead on the c\*hemRoots project.

Toerien and Dr Nico Fischer, associate professor in the Chemical Engineering department, developed the kit along with accompanying teaching resources in a bid to provide teachers with materials that focus on using practical work as a teaching strategy.

"While there are many reasons for poor learner performance at school level, one leading issue we identified is teachers' lack of content knowledge," said Fischer.

Professor Michael Claeys, director of c\*change, said, "c\*hemRoots has the potential to increase the number of students who are eligible to access science and engineering programmes at a tertiary level ... This is a great example of fulfilling the c\*change mandate of catalysing change."

## CELEBRATING A STANDOUT TEACHER

"He forced hope into our hopeless hearts," wrote student Nonkululeko Biyase when nominating her Menzi High School mathematics teacher Sfiso Kubeka for the 2018 Stella Clark Teachers' Award.

The awards form a living memorial to the late Stella Clark, who was a language development lecturer in the Centre for Higher Education Development (CHED). They seek to shine a light on the exceptional teachers who are making a difference in the lives of disadvantaged students.

"So often we see that teachers have very low expectations of their learners, and you've had the highest expectations of your learners," said Associate Professor Rochelle Kapp, addressing Kubeka. "It's truly inspiring, and humbling, to have you here."

Biyase, who was completing her Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting, recalled the high expectations, constant encouragement and affirmations that Kubeka passed on to his learners. He was more than a maths teacher, she recounted: he was a life coach.

Not only did Kubeka provide extra lessons before and after the school day, he spent his weekends teaching as well. These extra sessions were open to all learners in the surrounding township of Umlazi, in KwaZulu-Natal.

He believed that this had a double benefit: helping the students to improve in their studies, as well as keeping them away from crime and drug abuse.

"When this opportunity [to nominate Kubeka] presented itself ... I had to take it, because I know where I come from and I know how much my teachers have done so that I can be here," said Biyase.

"It was through their motivation. It was through their encouragement that I was able to come to UCT."



## INAUGURAL LECTURES

The Vice-Chancellor's Inaugural Lecture series is a central part of university academic life, commemorating the appointment of lecturers to full professorships. These events provide a platform for an academic to present their body of research, sometimes a focus of their entire careers.

In addition, the lectures allow UCT the opportunity to showcase its academics and share its research with members of the wider university community and the general public.

In 2018 UCT celebrated seven inaugural lectures:



**Professor Maano Ramutsindela**  
(21 February)  
"Remapping Africa through peace parks: What future for the continent?"



**Professor Caroline Ncube** (28 March)  
"The public interest in intellectual property law: African solutions to global challenges"



# WINFIELD'S WINNING WAYS CONTINUE

Associate Professor James “Jimmy” Winfield continues to rack up awards for teaching excellence, but for the College of Accounting lecturer, it’s all about making a difference.

Reflecting on his motivation in life, Winfield recalled his days as a waiter: “I used to love the fact that people would come in hungry and a bit grumpy and then, at the end, they would leave with a smile on their face, and I had a little bit to do with that.”

While those days may be over, he thrives on bringing similar satisfaction to those he teaches at UCT. It’s a formula that has served both the students and Winfield well, evident in his array of awards and the affectionate nickname “Uncle Jimmy” that many students use when referring to him.

His latest accolade was the 2018 CHE-HELTASA National Excellence in Teaching and Learning Award that he

received in November. The award is the result of a collaboration between the Higher Education Learning and Teaching Association of Southern Africa (HELTASA) and the Council on Higher Education (CHE) and is the most prestigious national award in teaching and learning in higher education.

It is his 11th award for teaching excellence, on top of nine awards from the Graduate School of Business, and UCT’s Distinguished Teacher Award in 2016. Winfield was also involved in the innovative Learn Accounting project and led the introduction and development of the Business Ethics course, which received UCT Collaborative Educational Practice Awards in 2016 and 2017 respectively.



**Professor Rebekka Sandmeier** (25 April)  
“In search of ‘The first South African composer’: The potholes and pitfalls of researching the history of Western music in South Africa”



**Professor Crick Lund** (23 May)  
“Ten reasons to invest in population mental health in low- and middle-income countries”



**Professor Shahid Vawda** (8 August)  
“The provocation of Archie Mafeje”



**Professor Karin Murriss** (5 September)  
“Posthuman child: Reconfiguring the human and educational relationality in all phases of education”



**Professor Neil Armitage** (17 October)  
“After the water crisis: How to turn Cape Town into a water-sensitive city”



## AT THE TOUCH OF A BUTTON

The Centre for Innovation in Learning and Teaching (CILT) launched the One Button Studio, a digital media facility for creating educational videos, in June 2018.

Speaking at the launch event, CILT director Associate Professor Laura Czerniewicz said the expertise gained during the production of 12 massive open online courses (MOOCs) would be channelled into the formal online education programme.

This would be made ever easier with the addition of the automated video-recording facilities housed in the new One Button Studio, a collaborative project between CILT's Digital Media Unit and its learning technologies team.

"The One Button Studio is UCT's investment in the blended and online learning capacity," said the head of the Digital Media Unit, Nawaal Deane.

True to its name, the studio can be controlled using a single button, and comes complete with camera rig, teleprompter, greenscreen backdrop and accompanying lecture slides.

After scheduling a slot in the studio, an educator simply needs to prepare their lecture materials and arrive to record. Once in studio they attach a lapel microphone, face the camera and press the button to start recording. The videos are automatically stored in the user's Vula profile and can be edited as required with the OpenCast editing software.

CILT will train academics to use the system, Deane said.

"We ... don't expect you to walk in here and do everything by yourself. But it is as easy as clicking a button."

"THE ONE BUTTON STUDIO IS UCT'S INVESTMENT IN BLENDED AND ONLINE LEARNING CAPACITY."



## CILT CELEBRATES STRIDES IN DIGITAL EDUCATION

UCT's Centre for Innovation in Learning and Teaching (CILT) celebrated its many successes in the digital education space at an event on 7 June 2018.

The gathering recognised three important milestones in online education at UCT: the completion of 12 massive open online courses (MOOCs), the building of the One Button Studio – an automated digital media facility for creating educational videos – and the launch of the formal online education project.

CILT director Associate Professor Laura Czerniewicz paid tribute to then vice-chancellor, Dr Max Price, for his support for online education.

In the past three years, 200 000 people have signed up for UCT MOOCs, Czerniewicz reported. On average, 700 people join one of the eight courses available on Coursera every week.

UCT's first two MOOCs, *Medicine and the Arts: Humanising Healthcare* and *What is a Mind?* are now in their eighth offering on Future Learn.

UCT's MOOC project has been remarkably successful, noted Price, largely due to the quality of the courses and lecturers.

"Most of us are teachers because we want to affect people's lives, and we want to share our knowledge and change the way they think."

MOOCs offer opportunities to do this on a scale that was previously unimaginable, he said.

"It's also, obviously, a way in which we fulfil our social mission of making education accessible."

"What's been particularly gratifying is that the expertise that was built up making those MOOCs is now being channelled into the formal, credit-bearing courses and into the formal online education programme," Czerniewicz said.





## OUR DISTINGUISHED TEACHERS

The Distinguished Teacher Award (DTA) recognises excellent teaching and is the highest accolade awarded to teaching staff at all levels within the university. Through the award, UCT acknowledges the primary place of teaching and learning in the university's work.

The DTA award winners for 2017 (presented in 2018) were:

### 1 PROFESSOR PRADEEP NAVSARIA: GENERAL SURGERY

Professor Pradeep Navsaria believes that the hallmark of good teaching is an active, collaborative and curiosity-driven learning environment in which all participants are both teachers and learners. "For me, teaching is about inspiring others to discover their purpose and potential. Medicine is about compassion, service, altruism and trustworthiness."

### 2 PROFESSOR ROBERT DUNN: ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY

Not only does Professor Robert Dunn practise as a celebrated spinal surgeon, he heads up UCT's Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, where he has pioneered innovative teaching practices at undergraduate, postgraduate and

postdoctoral levels. "My efforts to teach and train came from a desire to improve orthopaedic and, more specifically, spinal surgical care in the region."

### 3 ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR JACQUELINE YEATS: COMMERCIAL LAW

Associate Professor Jacqueline Yeats was practising as an attorney when UCT contacted the company looking for a guest lecturer. Almost 13 years later, she's still at the university. "I feel huge satisfaction when students connect with law beyond what is in their textbooks; that's when I sense that the contribution I may have made to their legal education really matters."

### 4 GREGOR LEIGH: PHYSICS

Relaxed, irreverent, interactive and engaging, that's how physics lecturer Gregor Leigh describes his teaching style. What makes a good teacher? "The ability to listen carefully to what students are really asking or needing, and to know how to fetch them from there to a proper understanding of the concepts ... Teaching is what you do when your student says for the third time: 'But I still don't understand!'"



## A COMMUNITY OF CARE

Developing "mechanisms for self-care" emerged as a central message in 2018 following three years of campus unrest and conflict.

A community of care is vital in a transforming institution exploring new ways of teaching and learning, said Edwina Brooks, director of Student Development in the Department of Student Affairs, during the 2018 Teaching and Learning Conference.

In Brooks's presentation, "Criminalising Students Who Protest(ed): Do we care?", she said caring for staff and students who were vulnerable, or became vulnerable as a result of challenging the status quo, was crucial.

Under the banners of Rhodes Must Fall and Fees Must Fall, students confronted

UCT's colonial identity and its role in terms of the public good. This was not new, Brooks said. Student protests around the world challenged the global trend towards the mass commodification and marketisation of higher education.

In commodifying higher education, teaching and learning had become more instrumental; students were more concerned about obtaining a certificate than about the depth and quality of their education and its transformative value.

All these factors had created complex challenges.

Brooks said her department had taken the lead from US student engagement theories that centre on what students – in all their intersectional diversity – bring to the institution, how they enrich the community, and how universities can provide opportunities for students to engage and develop.

"The idea is that the more students engage, the happier they are and the more likely to succeed."



# FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

## CHED

The UCT Formal Online Education Project in the Centre for Innovation in Learning and Teaching (CILT) is a five-year initiative (2018–2022) established to promote innovation in online learning and strengthen online education capacity.

Following the review done by the Boston Consulting Group, the Centre for Educational Testing for Access and Placement (CETAP) reaffirmed the importance of the assessment of entry-level students' academic literacy and mathematics proficiency levels and understanding their learning needs at the start of their studies.



**2 600** The Centre for Extra-Mural Studies (EMS) offered another successful Summer School, drawing in excess of 2 600 participants to 110 lectures and courses with just under 7 900 enrolments.

Three faculty members were promoted to full professors effective 1 January 2019: Mbulungeni Madiba, Laura Czerniewicz and Suellen Shay.

## COMMERCE

DataFirst, a research data service in the School of Economics, became the only internationally certified African data repository after being awarded a CoreTrustSeal endorsement.

After a six-year collaboration with UCT's College of Accounting, Walter Sisulu University and the University of Zululand received SAICA accreditation, securing top-quality accounting degrees for their students.



Associate Professor Gizelle Willows was the recipient of the Best Overall Paper award at the 2018 Southern African Accounting Association Conference for her paper "An Investigation of Non-Interest Income in the South African Banking Environment".

**45** The faculty is home to three holders of SARChI chairs and 45 NRF-rated scholars.

The UCT Graduate School of Business was ranked 67th (up from 70th in 2017) out of the top 90 business schools in the prestigious Financial Times Executive Education Customised Rankings 2018, scoring in the top 50 for its international clients, faculty diversity and future use and relevance of its programmes.

## ENGINEERING & THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Industrial Computational Fluid Dynamics Research Group's novel software Elemental enabled Airbus to improve the design of its A320 aircraft, winning the team the Best Innovations in Flight Physics award for 2017/18.

**POSTDOC RESEARCHER DR MEHDI SAFARI, TOGETHER WITH PROFESSOR MOJTABA GHADIRI FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS, RECEIVED A ROYAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING AWARD FOR THE CAPE PARTNERSHIP, A PROJECT TO IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY OF MINERAL PROCESSING.**



Mochelo Lefoka, in collaboration with Associate Professor Abimbola Windapo, received the Singapore Institute of Building Limited Best Paper Award at the 42nd Annual Australasian Universities Building Education Association conference.

Chris Plano, a PhD student, received the best paper award at the 37th Annual Southern African Transport Conference for his paper on a hybridised public transport network.

## HEALTH SCIENCES

**OVER 1 000 RESEARCH CONTRACTS WERE PROCESSED TO THE VALUE OF NEARLY R1 BILLION.**



In South Africa's first operation on placental support (OOPS), doctors Shazia Peer, Chantal Stewart and Alp Numanoglu led a team to perform a tracheostomy on a caesarian baby still connected to its mother through the umbilicus and placenta, giving the doctors minutes to unblock its airway.

At the fifth Global Symposium on Health Systems Research, Professor Lucy Gilson, head of the Health Policy and Systems Division, received the Lifetime Achievement Award for her career-long engagement with health policy analysis.

A candidate tuberculosis (TB) vaccine, in a clinical trial by SATVI-CIDRI, prevented TB by significantly reducing the incidence of lung TB in HIV-negative adults with latent TB.



# HUMANITIES

The faculty hosted the Black Archives and Intellectual Histories seminar series, inviting internationally acclaimed scholars to contribute to the ongoing conversation about the decolonisation of higher education.

The African Gender Institute's symposium, *Dreaming Feminist Futures*, stimulated intergenerational conversations about feminism(s), decolonisation and Africanity.



Associate Professor Berni Searle initiated an art auction, *Siyakhula*, raising R4.8 million in scholarships for students from previously disadvantaged groups.

UCT alumnus Andrew Hoole and student Conrad Asman from the South African College of Music won the SAMRO Overseas Scholarships Competition for budding composers.

The George Forster Award from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation was awarded to Professor Herman Wasserman in recognition of his research achievements.

The Gutenberg Research Chair, which recognises influential scholars undertaking collaborative research projects, was awarded to Emeritus Professor Ari Sitas.



Associate professors Nadia Davids and Jay Pather received Fleur du Cap awards for best new South African script and best director respectively.

## LAW

THE UCT LAW FACULTY IS RATED IN THE TOP 100 LAW SCHOOLS IN THE WORLD (QUACQUARELLI SYMONDS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2018).

**1 300** The Faculty of Law is home to over 1 300 students, 47% of whom are postgraduates.



**22** Academics in the faculty hold four SARChI chairs and 22 NRF ratings.

It's the oldest law school in South Africa – 2019 marks 160 years since the first official South African College law lecture was delivered on 16 April 1859.

THE FACULTY CONFERRED

**11**  
PhDs

**193**  
LLMs

**174**  
LLBs

**14**  
PG dips

UCT Law's Endowment Fund Scholarships funded scholarships of around R1.5 million for undergraduates and postgraduates.

## SCIENCE

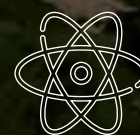
The Astronomy Department was ranked first in Africa and 149th in the world in 2017/18 according to the University Ranking by Academic Performance Research Laboratory (URAP).

Professor Patricia Whitelock, Department of Astronomy, was awarded the 2018 South African Institute of Physics Gold Medal for her outstanding research career in astronomy and astrophysics.



The 2018 Piers Sellers Prize was awarded to Professor Mark New, director of the African Climate and Development Initiative (ACDI), for his world-leading contributions to solution-focused climate research.

Fortune magazine named Professor Kelly Chibale, founder and director of the Drug Discovery and Development Centre (H3D), as one of their Top 50 World's Greatest Leaders for his pioneering work in developing infrastructure to support scientific research.



Postdoctoral fellow Dr Petra Sumasgutner from the FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology received a L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Award for her research on Golden Eagles.



# FUTURE

Dr Reno Morar, former deputy dean for Health Services in the Faculty of Health Sciences, was appointed as chief operating officer, effective 1 February 2019. This new post was created to improve the efficiency of the university's operations. Having oversight of Properties and Services, Morar will be instrumental in the successful completion of current and future building projects, as well as the management of these facilities, to meet future infrastructure needs at UCT.

## CHANGING FACE OF UCT INFRASTRUCTURE

Seven new buildings and developments will come on stream in the next one to three years to meet UCT's infrastructural needs to 2035.

These major campus developments are an important physical facet of UCT's goal to remain Africa's top university, said architect and urban planner Nigel Haupt, director of the university's Capital Planning and Projects unit.

The new buildings in the pipeline are:

- The 500-bed Avenue Road residence for first-year students on middle campus. As a first-tier residence, it will include dining and other much-needed student facilities. Completion is planned for 2020/21.
- The Neuroscience Centre in the J-block building at Groote Schuur Hospital, due for completion in September 2019.
- The GSB Academic Conference Centre, due for completion in May 2019.
- The new School of Education planned for a site adjacent to the School of Dance on lower campus. The school should be operational by the end of 2020.
- The R100-million Hasso Plattner-funded d-school, near Woollsack, on middle campus.
- The six-storey R73-million ARISE Building is a training centre for skin health, cosmetic and occupational product skin safety testing, planned for the Health Sciences campus.
- The North Bus Stop on upper campus will be moved to a site opposite the Sports Centre to alleviate congestion in this precinct.

While there have been rumours of possible UCT satellite campuses, this is not part of the plan, said Haupt.

"The infrastructural support required [in decentralising] does not make this financially and operationally feasible."



## GSB ACADEMIC CONFERENCE CENTRE TAKES SHAPE

The construction of a R130 million ultra-modern academic conference centre on UCT's Graduate School of Business (GSB) campus will greatly enhance the school's ability to convene thought leadership conferences and host sizeable international delegations.

"The limited scale of existing facilities ... hampered our ability to host [large] modern conferences on site," explained Rayner Canning, director of the GSB Business Development Unit.

The academic conference centre will meet the requirements of a technologically advanced era in academic and research circles.

"The basement houses a stepped auditorium capable of seating some 250 people, so it will be ideal for the larger seminars and for lectures to big groups. Both the ground and first floor contain multipurpose flat venues, which can operate either as independent spaces with about 70 people in each, or the entire area can be opened out to cater for bigger functions, which can be attended by up to 300 people.

"There are also a number of smaller breakaway rooms ... The entire facility will be able to hold 750-900 people at any one time."

The conference centre will be available for hire by outside parties - its location in the Waterfront precinct offers obvious attractions.

The centre is being built between the main academic block and Stone House four and five.

"We anticipate the venue to be operational by the end of the first quarter 2019," Canning said.



# FOCUS

## GROUNDBREAKING NEUROSCIENCE CENTRE

A breaking-ground ceremony for the new Neuroscience Centre in June 2018 marked the start of construction for a state-of-the-art facility focusing on the scientific study of the nervous system.

"Breaking ground signals a beginning ... of renewed energy for the work that you have been doing and the work that is still to come," said then Vice-Chancellor designate Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng.

The centre will house the UCT Neuroscience Institute, as well as the Groote Schuur Hospital Clinical Neuroscience Centre, where researchers and clinicians will work together to study and treat mental and neurological disorders.

Professor Graham Fieggen, director of the Neuroscience Institute, said Emeritus Professor Kay de Villiers first proposed a dedicated Neuroscience Centre at UCT in 1969, but the real work to establish the centre started around 10 years ago.

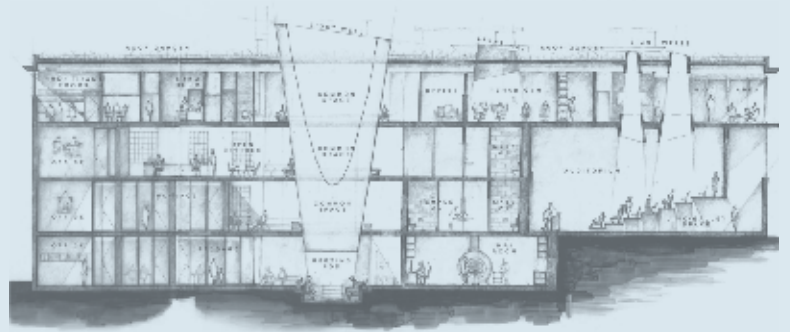
"I believe that we can truly be a world leader in neuroscience, by focusing on the areas where we can make a difference to patients."

The centre, which will be located in the renovated J-block building at Groote

Schuur Hospital, will offer specialised clinical neuroscience services, and house the laboratories, lecture theatres and infrastructure of the Neuroscience Institute.

The institute will encompass key neuroscience disciplines, a neurosurgical innovation and skills laboratory, a human tissues repository, and direct access to the Cape University Body Imaging Centre (CUBIC).

Construction will be completed in September 2019.



## MANDELA SCHOOL LAUNCHED

The Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance, launched by Vice-Chancellor Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng in July 2018, seeks to epitomise and promote the former statesman's values of ethical and selfless leadership.

Formerly the Graduate School of Development Policy and Practice, the Mandela School, as it has become known, was granted rights to use the Mandela name by the Nelson Mandela Foundation in July. In this way UCT was able to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of our late former president.

The school is committed to cultivating and supporting leadership in African governance, placing a firm emphasis on public sector reform, accountability and trust in governance.

Several programmes and courses are on offer, including a part-time master's programme for mid-career public servants, executive short courses for government officials, high-level dialogues from experts on the continent, and pan-African youth leadership programmes.

While the school is currently located on middle campus, significant support from Atlantic Philanthropies has enabled the launch of a project to build a new facility, which will include a public centre of memory for Mandela in the Cape. This will take the form of an exhibition space curated by the Nelson Mandela Foundation, as well as a 250-seat conference centre.

The design of the memorial and school building will be finalised after an architectural competition is held later in 2019. It is hoped that the school's home will counterbalance the prominence of the Rhodes Memorial, offering an alternative visual and political counterpoint, more integrated with its surroundings and with the life of the country.



# BONGANI MAYOSI

1967–2018

The untimely death of Professor Bongani Mayosi, the late dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, on 27 July 2018 has left a gap in medical science and research across the globe.

Professor Mayosi was the recipient of national and international honours for his groundbreaking work in cardiology, addressing in particular the needs of the poor and the young. He was committed to building the capacity of African researchers in solving the health problems that are common in developing countries.

Smangele Malema, a master's student in biomedical forensic science, said Mayosi gave hope to black students. "He made us feel at peace and we felt like we could amount to something. He was a great inspiration to us all and will be missed dearly."

Emeritus Professor Marian Jacobs described Mayosi as "an academic leader of great distinction, a brilliant cardiologist, a globally recognised clinical scientist and a well-loved teacher".

She added, "His academic leadership was widely recognised and respected by peers way beyond South Africa's borders,

and he established strong connections in the global south as well as in the global north, thus placing the faculty on a firm footing on the world stage."

He inspired his colleagues and students not only with his high professional standards but also with his gentle humility.

Zandile Booï, an MSc student in medical virology, met Mayosi in the cardiovascular genetics group during her honours programme. "He had the biggest smile ever," she recalled. "Seeing him kept me going. He was the epitome of excellence."

Fourth-year physiotherapy student Sikho Ngcobo said, "If you passed him in the corridors, he would stop to talk to you. If he sensed that things weren't right, he would give you his full attention and encourage you to tell him your concerns. It wasn't just routine for him. He wanted to truly know how his students were doing. He was so genuine."

"I remember our clinical nurses talking about his amazing practical skills," said final-year medical student Sandiswe Nkema. "He was like a legend. So when I met him and saw how humble he was ... I was very touched."

A National Research Foundation A-rated scholar, Mayosi was elected to the US National Academy of Medicine in 2017, one of the highest honours in the fields of health and medicine, awarded to individuals who have demonstrated outstanding professional achievement and commitment to service.

The same year, Mayosi led an all-women team of researchers who published their remarkable discovery of a heart attack gene that is a major cause of sudden death among young people and athletes.


The UCT community and his many friends and colleagues around the country, the continent and the globe will feel the effects of his loss for years to come.











“One thing that has not changed is the inspiration I have always felt when presiding over these joyful and life-altering [graduation] ceremonies. They are the culmination of our academic work .... But even more exciting is being introduced to a graduate’s parents and in front of us stands the person representing the next generation – now a doctor, accountant, lawyer or engineer. This is the visible evidence that UCT is changing the lives and circumstances of an individual, a family and a community within the scope of a single generation.”

**DR MAX PRICE, VICE-CHANCELLOR UNTIL 30 JUNE 2018**

“I challenge you to use your education, this precious gift, to serve your community and your society, to help achieve the dream of a future that is more just, equal, fair, to make it inclusive for all. I challenge you to set your super-power dials to ‘in service’. If you dare to accept my challenge today, what a wonderful miracle might unfold in our country and our world.”

**VICE-CHANCELLOR PROFESSOR MAMOKGETHI PHAKENG**